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Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN

REV. BERNARD BRASKAMP, D.D.

AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY SESSIONS OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

DURING THE

EIGHTY-FIFTH AND EIGHTY-SIXTH

CONGRESSES

1957-1960

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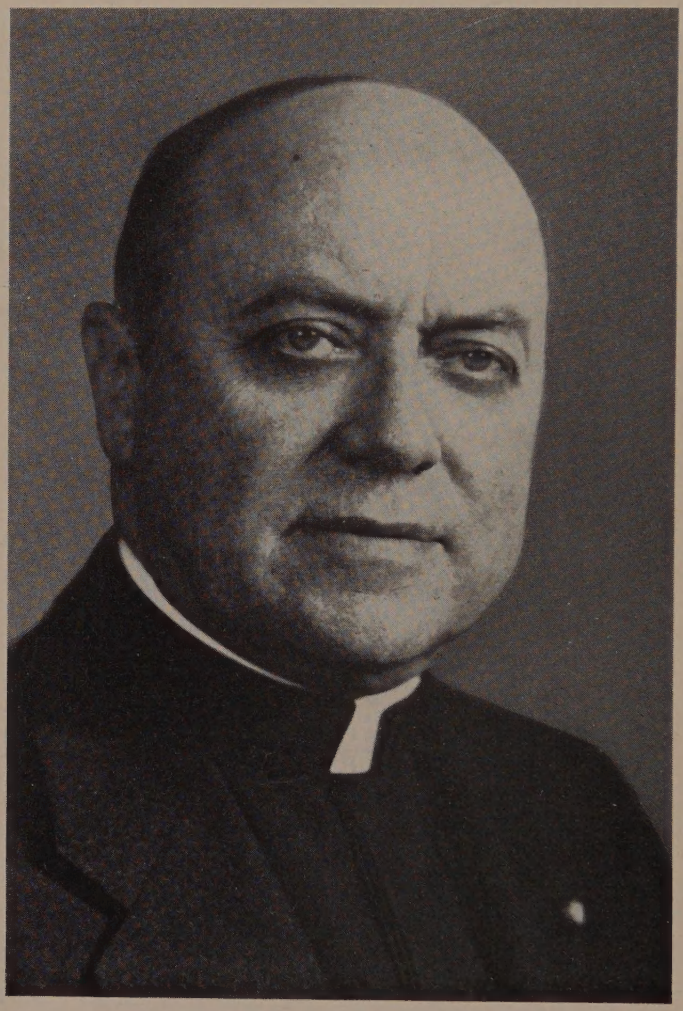

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1957–1960

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1960

House Resolution No. 454

[Submitted by Mr. WALTER of Pennsylvania]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 30, 1950.

Resolved, That Reverend Bernard Braskamp, of the District of Columbia, be, and he is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

House Resolution No. 534

[Submitted by Mr. HAYS of Ohio]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
May 18, 1960.

Resolved, That the prayers offered by the Chaplain, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp, doctor of divinity, at the opening of the daily sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States from January 3, 1957, to the end of the Eighty-sixth Congress be printed as a House document, and that two thousand additional copies be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, to be distributed by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

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To

CHRISTINA J. BRASKAMP
my beloved and only sister
and
DR. O. A. BRASKAMP
my devoted elder brother
who were for seventeen years faithful missionaries in the
Shantung Province of China, under appointment of
the Presbyterian Board of Missions, U.S.A.

Introduction

By resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted in the Eighty-sixth Congress, authorization was granted for the printing of the prayers of the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp.

Dr. Braskamp has been Chaplain of the House since 1950, following forty years of service as pastor of churches in the Washington area. Since his retirement from a regular pastorate in 1952, Dr. Braskamp is the first full-time chaplain in either the House of Representatives or the Senate of the United States.

There is no one who enjoys in such notable degree the respect and affection of the entire membership of the House as does Dr. Braskamp. To the membership of the House of Representatives, he is counsellor, friend, and brother. Free from any suggestion of sectarian bias, his daily ministrations were helpful and inspiring, lifting all who heard him to a deeper realization of their need for divine guidance.

In publishing this volume of his prayers, we feel that we are rendering a public service, and are sure that it will be a valuable addition to the religious literature of the day.

Respectfully,

Sam Rayburn

Speaker, House of Representatives.

Tribute

Remarks by Representative Charles B. Hoeven

OF IOWA

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

Mr. Speaker, I am highly pleased over the appointment of Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D.D., as Chaplain of the House of Representatives, to succeed retiring Rev. James Shera Montgomery, D.D. My home town of Alton, Iowa, is greatly honored to have one of its native sons selected for this distinguished position, for this little town of Alton, where I reside, is the place where Dr. Braskamp was born and grew to manhood.

Another lifelong friend of Dr. Braskamp and one who takes particular pleasure in his election as Chaplain is Claude S. Scheckel, one of the Official Reporters of Debates in the House of Representatives. Dr. Braskamp, Mr. Scheckel, and I have known each other since childhood, all three being from Alton. It is a remarkable coincidence that the three of us meet again here in the great forum of the House of Representatives.

Dr. Braskamp, who has spent his entire ministry of 39 years in Washington, is the dean among the 42 pastors of the Washington City Presbytery in length of service. It is stated that among the several hundred clergy in Washington of the Protestant, Catholic, and Hebrew faiths there is only one in the active pastorate who exceeds him in the record of length of service. In 1951, when he completes his 40 years in his Washington pastorate, he plans to write a book entitled "Forty Years a Minister in the Nation's Capital."

The Gurley Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was his first church after being associated with Dr. Charles Wood in the Church of the Covenant, is in fact still his one and only church. It was named in memory of Dr. Phineas D. Gurley, Chaplain of the United States Senate and pastor of the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where President Abraham Lincoln worshipped. Dr. Braskamp was the leader when the Gurley congregation built a new house of worship, and 7 years later he became the leader in merging the Gurley and Gunton-Temple Congregations and in the erection of their present church at Sixteenth and Newton Streets.

During the past 10 years he has officiated more than 175 times as Acting Chaplain in the House, substituting for Dr. Montgomery. During these past 10 years he has also been the Acting Chaplain in the Senate on more

than 75 occasions and during the entire 1948 Special Session of the Congress and the vacation periods of Chaplain Dr. Frederick Brown Harris and the late Chaplain, Dr. Peter Marshall.

Dr. Braskamp pursued his education and received degrees from the following schools: Public schools in Alton, Iowa; graduated from the Northwestern Classical Academy at Orange City, Iowa, in 1903; first 2 years of college study at Grinnell, Iowa; graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of bachelor of arts in 1908; first year of theological training in Hartford, Conn.; last 2 years of theological training in Princeton Seminary, graduating in 1911; received the degree of master of arts from Princeton University in 1911, having taken his studies in the department of philosophy. In June 1930 Hanover College of Hanover, Ind., gave him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

In June 1947 he was made a Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau, the decoration being bestowed on him by Queen Wilhelmina at a ceremony conducted by Ambassador Loudon in the Netherlands Embassy.

In 1929 he was elected to the office of moderator of the Washington City Presbytery which is composed of 42 churches and in 1940 he was made the moderator of the Synod of Baltimore which is composed of the 153 Presbyterian Churches of Washington City, Baltimore, and New Castle.

Dr. Braskamp has for 15 years been the president of the Princeton Theological Seminary Alumni Association of Washington and is a member of the Washington Princeton University Club, and the University of Michigan.

In September 1925 he married Anna C. Bull, of Milford, Pa. They have two children, a daughter, Anne Bernice, age 22, who graduated from Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa., with a bachelor of arts degree in June 1949, and entered the law department of George Washington University in September 1949. Bernard, Jr., age 18, graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in June 1949 and is preparing to enter West Point Military Academy in 1950.

Dr. Braskamp was born of humble, God-fearing Dutch parents in Alton, Iowa, a small town of 1,000 inhabitants in the northwestern part of the State where the temperature one winter, during his boyhood days, registered 42° below zero although on the 18th day of February 1887, when he was born, it was only 15 below.

His father and mother were childhood friends and schoolmates in Holland, both having been born in Appeldorn, where the Queen has her summer home. His mother was 15 years of age when her parents and their nine children emigrated to America. His father, who was the same age, was a young tinsmith in Appeldorn and when he reached the age of 21 and had earned enough money at his trade to pay for his passage, he also went west to America, the "land of opportunity," where his boyhood sweetheart was living. A few years after his arrival they were married, the bride having been employed as a seamstress and the bridegroom having found work as a tinsmith and clerk in the small hardware store in Alton.

Dr. Braskamp speaks the Dutch language fluently and keeps his command of that language by reading his mother's Bible which she brought with her from Holland. He often calls to mind those pioneer days in the prairies of Iowa when life was a tremendous struggle and there were many hardships.

The house in which he was born was a small frame building with no heat in any room except in the kitchen where there was a cook stove in which corn cobs, purchased from farmers at 75 cents per wagonload, were the only fuel material. He and the other four children in the family slept on straw beds in rooms without heat. The mother, after kneeling with them in prayer, would tuck them in, the last in bed having the great thrill of blowing out the lamp which she carried.

Dr. Braskamp's parents made every possible sacrifice to give their five children a college education. After completing his grammar-school studies in Alton, he went to the Northwestern Classical Academy at Orange City, Iowa, which was 4 miles to the northwest. He usually walked this distance, leaving home at 6:45 in the morning, the starting time being determined by the weather. It was pretty tough going to face the cold northwest wind in the winter months. Like every normal boy he often wished that he could hear the news that the academy had burned to the ground and that there would not be any school.

On the evening of the academy commencement exercises the principal, in his introductory remarks, announced that the 16-year-old Braskamp boy in knee-length pants who was the next on the program to give an oration, had never during his 3 years been late for the 8 o'clock chapel services. Dr. Braskamp gives his mother all the credit for that record for she got up every morning at 5:30 to start the cook-stove fire and to melt enough water in the ice-covered basin so that he could wash his face and hands before sitting down to his breakfast which usually consisted of a large dish of oatmeal, toast, and a cup of hot chocolate. His mother would always put a few home-made cookies or doughnuts in his overcoat pocket which would tide him over until he returned from school at about 1:30 in the afternoon after walking the 4 miles.

After graduating from the academy he went to Grinnell College, Iowa, entering at the age of 16. In his freshman and sophomore years he was the shortstop on the varsity baseball team and the pitcher on his class team. There is one intercollegiate game whose memory haunts him. Grinnell was playing the University of Iowa and the game was a tie at the beginning of the ninth inning with Iowa University at bat. There was an Iowa runner on third base and two outs. The batter on the third pitch drove a sizzling grounder to the shortstop which he handled cleanly just as he had done with the seven other grounders but something happened and he threw the ball about 20 feet over the first baseman's head and into the grandstand. The game was over for Grinnell failed to score during the last half of the ninth inning. A heart-broken player went home in tears.

Dr. Braskamp completed his first 2 years at Grinnell College in a creditable manner but his parents were financially unable to assist him in continuing his studies. There was very little opportunity for a student to work his way through school at Grinnell. He consequently found it necessary to stay home and spent the year as a clerk in his father's hardware store. It was his job to open the store every morning at 7 o'clock, start the fire in the stove, sweep the floor, and dust the counter. After those chores he was ready to do a rushing business. The hardware business, however, was not a lucrative one, especially during the cold winter months. Frequently, when his father and he were getting ready to close the store at 9 o'clock in the evening, they would find, upon counting the money in the till, that they had sold less than $2 worth of merchandise.

Dr. Braskamp's parents, always ready to make every sacrifice for their children's education, sold their last small tract of farm land, which they had purchased for $8 an acre, in order that he might be privileged to pursue his education. He decided to go to the University of Michigan for those last 2 years. Realizing what tremendous sacrifices his parents were making, he immediately upon arriving at Ann Arbor, Mich., started out in search of work which would help pay expenses. He found work waiting on tables and cutting the lawn of one of the professors. In the wintertime he took care of the professor's furnace. He did not have time, however, for the practice and training that was required of a student who was trying out for the varsity baseball team and therefore gave up his boyhood dream of being a major-league player.

One week in the spring he made big money. He was given charge of the sale of the librettos for the May festival. He made $32 that week but his duties, as sales manager, deprived him of the inspiration and pleasure of hearing Schumann-Heink who was on the program that year. It was a question of business before pleasure.

In the summertime, during his vacations, he sold maps and the Century Book of Facts. He also made an extra few dollars at the Fourth of July celebration in his home town and the nearby towns, for he was quite a sprinter, usually winning first or second place in the 100-yard dash. The men who bet on him would always give him at least 50 cents or a dollar whenever he was the first to hit the tape.

Having been a shortstop on a college baseball team he also frequently made a few dollars by playing for neighboring towns.

At the beginning of his senior year at the University of Michigan he decided to enter the law department after receiving his bachelor of arts degree but a few months before graduation he felt the urge to enter the ministry. Then in September he went to Hartford Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn., where he was given a scholarship.

While a first-year student in the Hartford Seminary he had the great privilege of hearing an address by Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton University. He was so inspired by that message that he decided to go to

Princeton for the remaining 2 years of seminary training where he could have an opportunity to hear Woodrow Wilson more frequently. It became his great ambition to obtain a master of arts degree from Princeton University. Consequently the following year he went from Hartford to Princeton. In addition to taking the regular studies in the theological seminary he went over to the university to enroll in the graduate department. At the end of the 2 years he not only graduated from the theological seminary but received the degree of master of arts in philosophy from Princeton University.

He was licensed and ordained to the ministry by the presbytery of Brooklyn, N.Y., in May 1911. In September 1911, he was invited to Washington to become the assistant pastor of the Church of the Covenant, now called the National Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Charles Wood was then the revered pastor.

TUESDAY, *July 24, 1956.*

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that House Resolution 439 was adopted in the House of Representatives on July 2, 1956. It provides that the prayers offered by the Chaplain, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp, doctor of divinity, at the opening of the daily sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States from January 3, 1953, to the end of the 84th Congress be printed as a House document, and that 2,000 additional copies be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives to be distributed by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to the remarks which I made in this Chamber on February 1, 1950, shortly after Dr. Bernard Braskamp was unanimously elected by the Democrats and the Republicans as the Chaplain of the House of Representatives. Dr. Braskamp, since his retirement from the active pastorate in 1952, holds the distinction of being the first chaplain in the history of the United States Congress to make the chaplaincy a full-time ministry.

His so-called congressional parish numbers more than 3,000 for he seeks to make his ministry as chaplain available not only to the 435 Representatives and their families but also to the officers, secretaries, clerks, pages, and all the employees on the House side of the Capitol.

"The Word Comes First"

Ever since Congress first met it has been customary to begin the day, in both the House and Senate, with prayer. Until recently the Scripture played little part in these proceedings. But now the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Reverend Dr. Bernard Braskamp, quotes one verse of Scripture before the prayer. (Among the verses he has used so far are: Isaiah 26:3, II Timothy 2:15, Matthew 6:33, and Psalm 46:1.)

Chaplain Braskamp got the idea from a book of prayers by Edward Everett Hale, the only previous Chaplain to have quoted a Bible verse before the daily prayer. A Unitarian minister, Hale was Chaplain to the Senate shortly after the turn of the century. When Dr. Braskamp shared the verse-a-day idea with Speaker Sam Rayburn the response was so enthusiastic that the chaplain began the practice immediately. There have been many favorable comments from Members of Congress, and Dr. Braskamp intends to continue the verse quotation.

Incidentally, since his retirement from a regular pastorate in 1952, Dr. Braskamp is the first full-time Chaplain on either side of the Capitol dome. So few Congressmen move their church membership to Washington congregations, he says, that it is a full-time job to act as their "pastor away from home."

Comment by Mr. O'Hara of Illinois

January 27, 1958

Mr. O'Hara of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been the subject of much favorable comment by my colleagues, and among many who watch from the galleries, that our beloved Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Bernard Braskamp, now prefaces each of his prayers at the opening of our sessions with some brief words of Scripture. In doing so he is following the custom of Edward Everett Hale, who was the distinguished Chaplain of the other body 54 years ago. Dr. Braskamp's prayers, delivered so eloquently and with such fervent sincerity, always are a source of great spiritual strength to us, and I am sure all my colleagues wish him to know our approval and appreciation of his revival of the custom of more than half a century ago of the renowned Edward Everett Hale.

Tenth Anniversary

JANUARY 30, 1960

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Rev. Bernard Braskamp completed 10 years service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives. I wish to congratulate him on behalf of myself and my colleagues not only for his splendid years of service to this body but because of his good health today after a siege of sickness last year.

Dr. Braskamp is respected and loved by the entire membership of the House. His 10 years of devoted service have been in the very highest tradition of spiritual leadership in this Nation. He has been counselor and friend to everyone associated with this body. His prayers before the House contain the essence of greatness. They never fail to bring us close to the Divine, and to inspire in each of us a renewed dedication to the sacredness of public trust.

My congressional district in Oregon is especially proud of Dr. Braskamp because of the summer he spent in the John Day Valley as a young student minister from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1909. Even then, he had the stature of greatness.

We all wish him and his wonderful wife good health and many more years of devoted service as Chaplain to this body.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like very much to join with the gentleman from Oregon in paying tribute to Dr. Braskamp who has been of such great service not only to the House of Representatives but to each individual Member of the House and their families especially in time of illness.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Ullman, in endorsing everything he had to say about our beloved Chaplain, Dr. Bernard Braskamp.

Dr. Braskamp was born and raised in my little town of Alton, Iowa, and we are all mighty proud of him. I have never known a more dedicated Christian gentleman.

I would also like to have Members of the House to know that one of our Official Reporters of Debate, Claude S. Scheckel, is a native of my hometown of Alton, Iowa. He was born and raised there.

It is rather unique to have three people from the same town in three different capacities serve in the House together. Dr. Braskamp, Mr. Scheckel and myself have had the pleasure of serving here together for quite a long while. I am sure Mr. Scheckel joins me and all my colleagues

in the House in wishing Dr. Braskamp the best of everything in the days that lie ahead.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I join with my friend from Iowa in congratulating Dr. Braskamp on his 10th anniversary as Chaplain of the House of Representatives. We in the House are very fortunate in having Dr. Braskamp as our Chaplain, and I say this without regard to religion, Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish. He presides with dignity and strength and his prayers appeal to the universally religious mind of all of us.

Mr. WALTER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join the gentleman in his expression of respect for our great Chaplain. Mr. Braskamp has given us words of encouragement during periods when they were so necessary. We all wish for him many more years of health and happiness.

Mr. TOLL. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the chaplaincy of Dr. Bernard Braskamp, I want to join those who commended him upon his excellent service in the past decade. He not only renders meaningful messages in prayer for the House but also provides congenial and helpful advice for the Members. His collection of prayers which were bound and sent to the Members were so interesting that copies were sent to a number of congregations in my district.

Mr. THOMPSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is hard for me to realize that we have reached the 10th anniversary of the coming of our beloved Chaplain, Dr. Bernard Braskamp, and yet, looking back over the years, it is hard for me to remember when we did not have him here to lead us daily in prayer and to shed on each one of us the light of his spiritual guidance.

As I stand here now, I feel particularly close to Dr. Braskamp, and I am not just exactly sure why. I have a feeling that the 400-odd membership of this body feel just exactly as I do, namely, that in the person of Dr. Braskamp they have a spiritual guide who is theirs individually and it is hard for them, as it is for me, to realize that we share him with others.

We have all known some great men in our service here in the House of Representatives, but as the years go by we shall realize more and more that few among them have equaled, and even fewer surpassed, the stature of our beloved Chaplain.

We all wish him many, many more years of service to his God, to his country, and to the membership of the House of Representatives.

Thirty-fifth Wedding Anniversary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1960

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, the strength of the American form of government is that it has moral origin, starting with a strong belief on the part of our people in God and His law and His word, and emphasized by two great commandments, without excluding the others, love of God, and love of neighbor. We have in the House of Representatives a great Chaplain, a man who has enriched the life of each and every one of us, particularly along spiritual lines.

I admire and respect our Chaplain very much. He is a gentleman of deep faith. We need that at all times, and particularly in the world today, without regard to what our religious convictions may be, the possession of deep faith and the public manifestation of deep faith, because that is the reservoir which could be the difference between victory and defeat.

We are fortunate in having in the House of Representatives this man of deep faith and of understanding mind. I have benefited from his prayers. He speaks to me when he offers the prayers he does so eloquently and effectively. I am sure when I say that about myself I speak the thoughts and the sentiments of every other of my colleagues.

Today is the 35th wedding anniversary of Chaplain and Mrs. Braskamp. The public manifestation on the part of the Members of the House, with all the Members spontaneously rising and applauding, that has just occurred out of our deep respect for him, constitutes the most powerful remarks that I or any other could make. I know I speak the thoughts and sentiments of all of my colleagues when I extend to our beloved Chaplain and Mrs. Braskamp our hearty congratulations and the wish that God may bestow upon both of them for countless years to come an abundance of His choicest blessings.

Mr. ARENDS. Along with my colleague from Massachusetts, the majority leader, I offer my congratulations to Chaplain and Mrs. Braskamp on their 35th anniversary and wish them many, many happy anniversaries to come.

It is not possible for all of us to be present on the floor each day at 12 o'clock to hear the opening prayer, but I try to make it my business to be here, the purpose being to listen to Dr. Braskamp's prayers. He has evolved a pattern that I like, namely, citing some real pointed quotation from the Bible, some paragraph from Holy Script that carries a deep message. It recalls to us some of the words we learned in years past. Such quotation is then followed by an eloquent prayer. What a fitting way to start the day,

in this House with words of inspiration and purpose. I wish it might be the privilege of every Member of the House to each day listen to these prayers. They carry with them the eternal hopes of us all, and bring to us a feeling of contentment and peace as we enter the tasks of the day. Such inspiration is not only needed by us all, but deeply appreciated I am sure by each and every Member. We are grateful to Dr. Braskamp for his sincere concern for our spiritual well being.

Again I extend to Dr. Braskamp and his wife my appreciation of their friendship and thank him for his sincere and untiring efforts for this great body.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, I join with the distinguished majority leader and the Republican whip in extending heartiest congratulations to Dr. Braskamp and his wife on their 35th wedding anniversary.

I think perhaps I know Dr. Braskamp better than any one in this Chamber. Dr. Braskamp was born in my hometown of Alton, Iowa. I knew his parents who were pioneers in our area. I also claim a bit of relationship because Dr. Braskamp's eldest brother is married to one of my father's sisters. So we have had a very happy association together, especially since we first met here in the Halls of Congress some years ago.

Dr. Braskamp is truly a Christian gentleman, a man who is revered and loved by all the Members of this House. His daily prayers are inspiring and his compassion for others has become a part of our daily association in this Chamber.

Heartiest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Braskamp. May they live long and happy and may God bless them in the days that lie ahead.

Mr. MOELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. McCormack, to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Braskamp on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary. It is my earnest hope and prayer, that the bountiful blessings attending their 35 years of wedded life be increased even more abundantly in the future and that a gracious God will sustain them and keep them in the bond of wedlock for many years to come. In addition, I, too, want to express my deep appreciation to the devout Chaplain for his spiritual ministry in this Chamber and call the attention of my colleagues to the importance of this daily ritual. When our Founding Fathers were wrestling with serious problems at the time of the drafting of our Constitution, when nothing but chaos seemed to be the lot of earnest men, it was shaggy-haired Ben Franklin who asked for the floor and reminded his colleagues of the need of divine guidance. A prayer was offered and each succeeding session of that Continental Congress up to this very day was opened with prayer, beseeching Almighty God for guidance in the midst of serious problems; forgiveness in the knowledge of guilt, and hope and solace in the dark hours of world affairs. Let us never forget the importance of this intercession. Let us ever remember: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1). This truth is especially important

for the trying times in world affairs today. And we reverence our esteemed Chaplain for bringing truths such as these to our attention in his daily devotions.

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, certainly I want to join with my colleagues in wishing our good Chaplain and his wife many, many more years of happiness on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary.

For me it has been a real pleasure to know the Reverend Bernard Braskamp.

His daily messages have been an inspiration to all of us, thoughtful and timely words of faith that help immeasurably to sustain us in the burdens we all face.

Always friendly, always gracious and always helpful, Reverend Braskamp, by his very example among us as a man of God, has contributed mightily to the atmosphere of good will that has characterized our deliberations here in this Chamber.

May the blessings of the Lord he has served so faithfully be upon Reverend and Mrs. Braskamp throughout a long and wonderful life together.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to be associated with the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished minority leader in their felicitations to our beloved Chaplain on this significant milestone in his and Mrs. Braskamp's life. I join with them in expressions of appreciation of the daily prayer and fellowship and inspiration which Dr. Braskamp has bestowed so generously throughout the years of his service here.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it is a rather impressing thought that from the day the American Congress first met in 1789 down to this time we have never had a session of the Congress that was not opened by prayer.

We have placed upon our coinage from the beginning the national motto "In God We Trust." We have indicated by our daily reverence and supplication for divine guidance through our Chaplain our complete faith and devotion to the Creator of all good and perfect gifts.

I recall in this connection a notable decision made by Speaker Gillette. The question had never been decided up to that time, but one day Mr. Thomas L. Blanton, of Texas, when the House convened rose and made the point of order that a quorum was not present and, therefore, the Chaplain could not offer prayer until a quorum could be secured. Speaker Gillette, passing upon the question for the first time, and for the last time, held that the prayer of the Chaplain was not a part of the business of the House and, therefore, did not require a quorum.

From time immemorial the Speaker has always presented the Chaplain each morning with the announcement "The Chaplain will offer a prayer." Speaker Clark alone always said, "The Chaplain will lead in prayer." Let us hope that Dr. Braskamp will continue to lead us in prayer for many years to come.

Prayers

Offered by the Chaplain at the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States During the Eighty-fifth and Eighty-sixth Congresses (1957–1960)

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

First Session

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1957

Almighty and ever-blessed God, on this 1st day of the 85th Congress, we are earnestly beseeching Thee that we may always be humble in spirit as we daily approach Thee with prayer and petitions for strength and wisdom and our many needed blessings.

Inspire us with this same spirit of humility, not only in our approach unto Thee, but in every appraisal that we make of ourselves and our resources to discharge faithfully the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

We pray that in the sphere of human relationships and all our associations, as colleagues and comrades in a grand and glorious mission, we may manifest a spirit that is gracious and generous in its appreciations, magnanimous and sympathetic in its attitudes, considerate and charitable in its judgments.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all Government employees may be the humble and obedient servants of Thy divine will in the great adventure of mediating to mankind the principles of democracy and the spirit of peace and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the meek and lowly man of Galilee who hath taught us to say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou alone art invincible in strength and infallible in wisdom, and Thy love never forgets or fails.

At the noon hour of this new day we are coming unto Thee with our prayers of adoration and praise, of confession and supplication, offering them in simplicity and sincerity.

Grant that the Day Star from on high may daily shine upon our hearts giving us the light that is bright with Thy presence.

We pray that the whole life of men and nations everywhere may be pervaded and permeated by that divine light.

Help us daily to reflect and reveal the splendor and richness, the beauty and freedom of the spirit of our blessed Lord.

May it be the goal of all our aspirations and endeavors to build a social order wherein dwelleth justice and righteousness, peace and good will.

As we plan for the future wilt Thou lift us out of a fear that trembles and stands still in weakness to a faith that is adventurous and walks in courage and confidence.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we now unite our hearts in prayer, wilt Thou answer our loftiest aspirations with Thy divine inspirations.

We rejoice that Thou art always drawing us to Thyself, seeking to give us Thy blessed companionship and to guide us by Thy unerring counsel.

Grant that daily we may be sensitive and responsive to the promptings and persuasions of Thy Holy Spirit and may there be in us a new nativity of the cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and love.

May our life be rich in the love that seeketh not its own and the courage that remains strong and steadfast in times of trial and tribulation.

Show us how we may be partners with Thee and with one another in the great redemptive ministry of leading bruised and brokenhearted humanity out of the darkness of hatred and fear into the glorious light of the kingdom of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1957

GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, Thou art always standing at the door of our hearts waiting to be welcomed and to temper them by some larger measure of the spirit of forbearance and patience, of mercy and compassion, of love and good will toward all mankind.

Grant that here, in this Chamber, we may be united in our longings and labor to hasten the dawning of that day of prophetic insight when a nobler moral and spiritual life shall emerge from the soul of humanity.

Take away from us all moods of apathy and indifference and may we never become cynical and discouraged and be tempted to feel that, in hoping and praying and working for world peace, we are being deceived by a vague impossibility.

Help us to believe that none of the lofty aspirations and hopes, which have been vouchsafed unto us and which we cherish, are too high and too holy to be fulfilled by Thy divine wisdom and strength.

In Christ's name we offer our petitions. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1957

O THOU WHO HAST ENDOWED AND ENTRUSTED US with the power of choice, inspire us this day with a desire to choose the true and higher values and to serve them with unwavering fidelity.

May we covert more earnestly that finer spirit which can transform the inner life and the intractable heart of humanity, changing it from hatred to love, from selfishness to sympathy.

Whatever the differences and distinctions among the members of the human family may be, help us to discover and emphasize our oneness and the things we have in common.

Constrain us to be willing to identify ourselves more closely with our fellow men in their struggles and sorrows and may we strive to make life less difficult for the poor and the needy.

Show us how we may build a nobler civilization and may we never be tempted to feel that the spirit of man has expended itself and is incapable of ascending to loftier heights.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD as we again assemble in this Chamber, wilt Thou beget in us that more beneficent spirit which never seeks Thy blessings merely for our own personal pleasure and profit but for the welfare of all mankind.

Show us how we may give courage and consolation to all whose heads are bowed low by the blows of adversity and who mourn in secret behind a smiling face.

We pray that our minds and hearts may be filled with those higher impulses and nobler instincts that will counteract every selfish and self-centered spirit which tends to disintegrate our social order.

Grant that daily our character may resemble and grow into the likeness of our blessed Lord and bear testimony to our kinship with Him.

In His name we offer our prayers. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, we thank Thee for these days, so significant in the calendar of our national life, when Thy servants, two of our fellow citizens, are taking the sacred oath of office as the President and the Vice President of these United States.

We earnestly beseech Thee to bless them abundantly with Thy grace and favor as they solemnly pledge themselves before God and man to discharge the duties and responsibilities of their high vocation with a pure and steadfast devotion.

May our leaders in Government and all our chosen Representatives be men and women upon whom Thou hast put Thy spirit and the seal of Thine approval.

Grant that daily they may enter into counsel with the God of all wisdom, recognizing their absolute dependence upon Thee and always holding their own desires and wishes in abeyance and waiting until Thou hast revealed unto them Thy way and Thy will.

Wilt Thou continue to bestow upon our beloved country Thy benediction and use us mightily in guiding burdened and groping humanity by the light of Thy truth and into the fellowship of Thy love and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, from whom to turn away is to falter and fail, Thou art always seeking to draw us nearer to Thyself in faith and in fellowship.

We penitently confess that when we look deeply into our souls we find that we are guilty of the infidelity of following Thee afar off and with stumbling and halting steps.

Grant that daily, in the sacred attitude and atmosphere of prayer, we may learn the secret of a life that is steadfast and secure, calm and courageous.

Hitherto Thou hast sustained us with words of good cheer, even though at times we seemed to be hearing only the beating of our own trembling hearts.

Lead and lift us by Thy spirit, out of those fears and anxieties, which so frequently haunt us, into a new experience of confidence and joy.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we continue to go forth into the hours of this new day, may we see more clearly and define more accurately the meaning and purpose of life in terms of service and the common good.

Inspire us to order our character and conduct in such a way that they shall be in complete agreement with the creed we confess of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Help us to realize the absolute insecurity and the utimate failure of a life that is intent upon personal aggrandizement and strives to gratify its own selfish desires.

May we seek more earnestly to be the messengers and mediators of the spirit of generosity and good will to needy humanity everywhere.

Hear us in the name of the great Minister and Master of men who went about doing good and always responded to the calls and cries of weakness and want, of sorrow and suffering. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE ONLY SOURCE OF WISDOM AND STRENGTH, we thank Thee for the high privilege of having a part in the great task of finding the right solution to life's many perplexing problems, personal and social; local, national, and international.

Show us how we may break down all the manmade walls of partition between nations and between the members of the human family.

Grant that everywhere we may be the channels of Thy gracious spirit, bringing faith where there is doubt; hope where there is despair; love where there is hatred; harmony where there is discord; light where there is darkness, and joy where there is sadness.

Inspire us with the unshakable confidence that beneath the surface tumult of the world there runs deep and strong the mighty current of God's eternal and beneficent purpose.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1957

O THOU WHO ART OUR COMPANION AND COUNSELOR, Thou knowest that our Speaker and the Members of Congress are charged with the solemn responsibility of legislating in a time of great crisis.

We humbly pray that they may be blessed with clear insight, intelligent appreciation and sympathetic understanding as they earnestly endeavor to put forth a determined and courageous effort in behalf of a nobler world order.

May the decisions which they are making in this Chamber be radiant with the promise of the dawning of a better day when the common welfare of the human race shall be the concern of all alike.

We fervently beseech Thee that the nations of the earth may extend to one another the overtures of peace and good will and learn to walk and work together as trustworthy friends and partners.

Grant that the mad scramble for personal advantage and the ambition of self-interest, which have so often ruled in the sphere of international relationship, may be supplanted by the spirit of mutual regard and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, ON THIS DAY OF DECISION, as we face wistfully a future that none can forecast or foresee, may it fortify our souls to know that Thou wert the God of our forefathers.

Inspire us with the glorious conviction that as Thou didst support them in their times of trial and tribulation, of fear and foreboding, so Thou wilt also strengthen and sustain us.

Help us to realize that there is nothing we need so urgently and supremely as a profounder sense of the moral and spiritual resources available unto us by prayer and faith and by a unity of spirit.

Give us a clearer vision of the might and majesty of democracy and may we long to make its spirit more comprehensive and catholic, more fruitful and progressive.

Grant that our democracy may not merely be a beautiful doctrine containing lofty ideals and principles, but a dynamic one that manifests itself in deeds of concern and cooperation and seeks to minister sacrificially to a world struggling for freedom.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we are daily praying that Thou wilt give us strength and fortitude in our times of weakness and worry and make us equal to every crisis and calamity.

We penitently confess that again and again it seems as if the world in which we live is only made up of a discordant and struggling mass of human beings with nothing to unite and hold them together but force and fear.

Grant that we may have a greater faith in the cohesive power of love and never lose heart in the high adventure of building a better world.

Inspire us with that divine love which casts out fear and always goes out in service and good will to all mankind.

Bless us above all with such a love of Thy truth that we shall come to know the truth of Thy love.

Hear us in the name of our gracious Lord whose life was one of love and sacrifice, of compassion and sympathy. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou art always waiting and willing to dwell in and with us and to pervade and possess our minds and hearts with Thy divine spirit.

Grant that we may be men and women whose life and character are inspired by the highest ideals and the most sacred traditions.

Hear us in our prayer of intercession as we beseech Thee to bless all who are having such a tremendous struggle with the hard facts of life.

Lift from their troubled souls those strange feelings of loneliness and anxiety when their faith is in danger of becoming eclipsed by doubt and despair.

We pray that they may have the glad assurance that Thou art great and good enough to care for them and that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt provide.

In Christ's name we bring our petition. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1957

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who art here and everywhere, we thank Thee for the wise and bountiful provision which Thou art daily making for our spiritual and material welfare.

We penitently confess that we frequently demand and try to gain so much from life for ourselves and are little concerned about giving help and happiness and hope unto others.

Grant that each to the extent of his ability and all with equal fidelity may be coworkers with Thee in the glorious adventure of supplying every human need and of establishing on earth the kingdom of brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who is the world's greatest Servant and its only savior. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily face the duties and responsibilities of our high calling, inspire us with that wisdom which is beyond the power of man to give.

Thou alone art able to satisfy our temporal needs and our immortal longings.

Help us to cultivate those finer attitudes toward one another which will make for mutual regard and understanding.

Expand our minds and hearts with the deepest concern for the blessedness of all mankind.

Thou knowest that again and again it seems that our hearts must be wrung with sorrow and our eyes be washed with tears before we can feel and see

clearly that we ought to manifest a wider sympathy and stretch forth a helping hand to stricken and struggling humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, in our prayer at this noon hour, we are earnestly beseeching Thee that the hearts of men and nations everywhere may be changed and charged with a nobler and finer spirit.

Take away from the mind of man all attitudes of provincial narrowness and sectarian antipathy and everything that mars and limits the true spirit of cooperation and considerateness, of fellowship and fraternity.

May our diplomats and statesmen who have been entrusted with leadership in the sphere of international relationships be inspired to manifest a spirit of friendliness, of frankness and fair dealing.

Grant that it may be the aspiration and aim of our life to establish and advance a social order and a civilization in which freedom is coordinated with discipline and all are laboring for the highest welfare of humanity.

In Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we again assemble in Thy name, may our souls be quickened with those desires and longings which Thou dost delight to satisfy.

Inspire us to believe that when life seems so baffling in its demand and so desperate in its needs then by trusting in Thee we may find the secret of remaining strong and steadfast.

Show us how daily we may enter into a more intimate fellowship with our blessed Lord who came to lead and lift mankind toward the light.

Incline our hearts to feel that it is our noblest obligation and our highest privilege to be partners with Him in building the kingdom of brotherhood and in helping those who have fallen and giving courage to all who have failed.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, may the days of this Brotherhood Week, which we are now observing, be radiant with a clearer vision and understanding of the many noble and helpful things that people of different creeds and races may do together for the welfare of humanity.

May we resolve to covet and cultivate more earnestly that finer spirit which goes out in kindness and sympathy toward the members of the human family and inspires them to live as brothers on the higher levels of peace and good will.

Show us how we may acquire a larger measure of the mind and spirit of our blessed Lord who went about doing good and always sought to give help and hope to the poor and needy, the sorrowing and suffering.

Help us to practice His Golden Rule and fill our hearts with those lofty impulses and feelings which are the progenitors of achievement in the building of a more brotherly social order.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for this day in the calendar of our national life, commemorating the birth of George Washington, whom we reverently and affectionately call the Father of his Country.

We rejoice that he sensed the sanctity of his high vocation when, as commander in chief of the Continental Army, he bravely championed the cause of the distressed colonists in their struggle against the forces of tyranny and despotism.

Grant that our hearts may expand with feelings of pride and patriotism as we call to mind his indomitable faith in divine providence, his fortitude in times of hardship, and his fidelity to the principle of human rights.

May the memory of his valorous and heroic spirit, which was undisturbed by difficulties and unafraid of dangers, inspire all our citizens in the glorious adventure of bringing peace and freedom to a troubled world.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for this new day. May we rejoice and be glad in it.

We gratefully acknowledge that always and everywhere Thou art ministering unto our many needs, sustaining and supporting us in our weakness and restraining and guiding us in our strength.

Hear us in our prayers of intercession for all who are the victims of difficult and tragic circumstances.

Help us to cultivate a nobler skill in the art of brotherly living, and may our minds and hearts sense the high value and eternal worth of all human souls.

Grant that we may hasten the coming of that glorious day of prediction when every need shall be supplied.

In Christ's name we bring our petition. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE ONLY SOURCE AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE, inspire and incline our minds and hearts to accept life as a great gift, a sacred trust, a divine opportunity, and a capacity for noble endeavor and service.

May we never break faith with our better self or allow our life to go to waste, but help us to appreciate its high eternal qualities and resolve to invest it with dignity and worth.

Constrain us to realize more fully that it matters not how long we live but how well and with what ideals and goals and with how much of faith and fortitude.

We humbly beseech Thee that daily we may take up life with joy and vigor, never delighting merely in its comforts and pleasures and dreading its risks and dangers and sacrifices.

Show us how we may bring all mankind into the fellowship of the larger life and deliver them from those doubts which darken their days and those fears which dwarf their faith and weaken their powers.

Hear us in the name of Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1957

GOD OF ALL MERCY AND GOODNESS, may this Lenten season upon which we have entered inspire us with the spirit of penitence and gratitude.

Help us in these days of soul culture to cultivate and gain a greater faith in the efficacy of prayer, believing that it can lift us out of weakness into power and our of weariness unto peace.

We rejoice that Thou art always placing before our minds and hearts a vision of a more spiritual social order with a happier and healthier life for all mankind.

May we give ourselves to the fulfillment of that vision with a single-hearted devotion and dedication.

Grant that as we are daily receiving Thy blessings and enjoying the fruits of the labors of others, so we may work each day that succeeding generations shall have a more blessed inheritance.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may the 40 days of this Lenten season be for all of us a time of quest and of conquest, of self-examination and self-mastery.

We humbly and penitently confess that so frequently we are not on speaking terms or at peace with our own souls for our conscience tells us that we have broken faith with our nobler and better self.

Show us how we may conquer and crucify every insurgent impulse, every inordinate desire, every self-indulgent habit, and all those temptations and sins which degrade and destroy our capacity to reach the higher levels of of life to which Thou hast called us.

Grant that in each new day we may have an inspiring and uplifting sense of Thy grace and power, transforming our lives from what they are to what they ought to be and can be.

Hear us in the name of Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1957

O THOU GREAT GOD OF OUR SPIRITS, in each new day of this Lenten season may we cultivate a deeper faith in Thee and in the reality and vitality of the spiritual values.

Inspire us with a finer perception of the moral laws and principles which Thou hast ordained for the blessedness of all mankind.

Grant that we may always seek to live the positive life, affirming a strong and radiant faith, as over against the negative life of doubt and unbelief of the cynic and the skeptic.

Help us to understand more clearly that for those who do not believe in the spiritual no explanation is possible and that for those who do believe, no explanation is necessary.

May we daily put our minds and hearts on the side of faith, believing when and where we cannot prove.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, at the beginning of this new day, we are again coming unto Thee in the fellowship of praise and petition beseeching Thee to give us a vivid and victorious sense of Thyself as our companion and counselor.

May we be more eager to hear and heed Thy voice and the demands of Thy holy will which we know, in our inmost heart, are benign and beneficent.

Teach us to trust Thee always and everywhere; in our times of conflict and confusion, of trial and tribulation, and in our days of weakness and weariness when life seems so drab and meaningless.

Grant that we may be in the vanguard of those who are dedicating and devoting their lives to the ministry of goodness and truth, of righteousness and peace.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR CREATOR AND BENEFACTOR, we worship and adore Thee as the only source of the wisdom that never errs and the courage that never falters.

Thou hast made us for Thyself, and humbly we confess that we are unhappy and restless until we find our joy and peace in Thee.

We pray that we may have a clear perception of our duties and seek to discharge them faithfully and in the fear of God.

Grant that the mind and heart of our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress may be richly endowed with understanding and insight as they set themselves to the difficult task of finding the right solution to the problem of human relationships.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we begin this new day with a clearer vision of the divinely appointed life which we must live together and which each must live alone.

Grant that we may commit unto Thee, for counsel and control all our concerns and interests, our deliberations and decisions, our aspirations and desires.

Inspire us to enter upon our daily tasks with a feeling of their sanctity and with the assurance of Thy wisdom to guide us and Thy strength to sustain us.

May we surrender ourselves completely to the guidance of Thy spirit and find in it our joy and peace.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, who are here and everywhere, we acknowledge humbly and gratefully that Thou knowest the blessings we need before we come unto Thee with our many petitions.

We thank Thee for those noble ideals and principles which are continually beckoning us to pursue the ways of honor and integrity, of peace and good will.

Inspire us with the light that reveals the path of duty and responsibility and the grace that girds us with courage and strength to follow it faithfully.

May the spirit of apathy and indifference never stifle our energies and our loyalty to that lofty idealism which hallows life and invests it with dignity and worth.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, as we continue to go forth into the hours of this new day, may we be humble and heroic in spirit, faithful and fruitful in service.

Deliver our minds and hearts from those fear-ridden cares and anxieties which wear us down and weaken our morale.

Help us to realize that, even though life today has in it many hard facts and tense experiences, we must not allow them to undermine our faith.

Give us the guidance of Thy spirit and may we follow the ways which Thou hast marked out for us for they are the ways of pleasantness and peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, grant that we may always be worthy of our blessings and wise in using them for our highest welfare and the needs of all humanity.

Make us more willing to give our strength to the weak, our sympathy to the sorrowing, and our substance to the poor.

Show us how we may bring joy and peace unto all whose lives are broken by bitter adversities and afflictions; bowed low by grievous and heavy burdens; beset by trials and tribulations.

May we comfort and encourage them with the glorious promise that they who trust in the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1957

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND WISDOM, as we again assemble in this Chamber and face the duties and decisions of a new day, may we seek and sense the presence and the power of Thy spirit.

Grant that our Speaker and the Members of the Congress, who have been entrusted with difficult tasks and heavy responsibilities, may be guided into the ways of truth and righteousness.

May the legislation which they are proposing and enacting contribute to the growth and goodness, the health and happiness, the material and spiritual welfare of our Nation and all mankind.

We humbly and earnestly beseech Thee that all who serve in the affairs of government and the business of statecraft may always be willing to accept the Master's overtures of counsel and companionship.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, in the hours of this new day, may we achieve a nobler goodness of character for ourselves and accomplish a larger measure of blessedness and good for others.

We penitently confess that we are often so selfish and determined on personal safety and security, rather than dedicating our life in service and sacrifice for needy humanity.

Show us how we may give courage and consolation, help and hope, unto all who are staggering under the heavy burdens of fear and foreboding.

May we give ourselves unreservedly to the guidance of Thy spirit and seek to do Thy will more perfectly for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may we now be of one mind with all who seek Thee; of one heart with all who love Thee; of one fellowship with all who worship Thee in spirit and in truth; of one purpose with all who serve Thee in faithfulness and joy.

Help us to believe and feel that Thou art our light in times of darkness; our strength in days of struggle and weakness; our companion and consolation in hours of bitter loneliness and deepest sorrow.

Grant that in these days of confusion and tension, the hard facts and harsh experiences of life may not break our hearts and blast our faith.

Hear us in the name of Him who, being Lord of all, was willing for our sakes to become the servant of all. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1957

O THOU GOD OF OUR FATHERS and all their succeeding generations we rejoice that our loftiest aspirations and deepest longings find their source and their supply in Thee.

We pray that daily we may yield our minds and hearts in glad and grateful obedience to Thy wise and holy will.

Grant that especially during this day we may have the presence and guiding power of Thy divine spirit.

Inspire us to discharge our duties with an eye single to Thy glory and be worthy of receiving the benediction which Thou dost bestow upon the faithful.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we come unto Thee in prayer, we acknowledge humbly that we have problems which we cannot solve adequately and questions which we cannot answer rightly.

Inspire us to make all our decisions within the circle of a great faith in Thee, and with the assurance that Thou will give us the wisdom and the will to meet life's stern demands and difficulties courageously.

May the fundamental principles of truth and righteousness, which Thou hast ordained always, be the sure and strong foundation upon which we are seeking to build our character and our civilization.

Grant that we may serve our generation faithfully, inspired by the noble tradition and the glorious heritage which we have received from our God-fearing forefathers.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1957

O THOU GREAT GOD OF OUR SPIRITS, at this noon hour, we are approaching Thy throne of majesty and mercy, of grace and goodness, compelled by many needs but, above all, constrained by Thy love which will never fail or let us go.

We rejoice that Thy divine love has neither geographical boundaries nor numerical limitation for it reaches everywhere and includes all mankind.

Help us to appreciate the wonderful opportunities which each day affords us for building a social order that has in it a larger measure of love and good will.

May we love Thee with all our mind and heart and soul and strength, which is the first and great commandment, and also be obedient to the second commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves, for on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Through the name of our blessed Lord we ascribe unto Thee all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1957

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, grant that during this day we may experience the strengthening presence and the sustaining power of Thy divine spirit.

God forbid that we should ever live in anguish and anxiety and fail to believe and see that Thy kind and gracious providence is always round about us.

We pray that our Speaker and the Congress may know how to legislate wisely and be inspired to find the best ways and means of promoting the health and happiness of our citizens and people everywhere.

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Give us the intrepid courage and conviction of the pioneer and the patriot as we continue to pray and labor for the coming of the kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE GREAT COMPANION OF OUR SOULS, in this brief moment of communion, may we belong to the vast fellowship of the seekers and finders of God.

Grant that daily we may be inspired to walk the human way of life in the spirit of our blessed Lord and with more of faith, hope, and love.

Show us how we may cultivate a larger capacity for goodness and good will, and a greater desire and determination to help sorrowing and struggling humanity.

Send us out into the crowded ways of life with hearts of compassion toward all who are haunted by cares and for whom life, at times, seems so dull and meaningless.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who is the captain of our salvation and the champion of a better world. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, inspire us during this day with a faith that is vivid and victorious.

Grant that our faith, in its simplest motive and manifestation, may never be merely a formal creed and a ceremonial but a life of sanctity and service.

Fill us with an earnest desire to help mankind enjoy a free and fruitful life.

Deliver us from all cold and cynical tempers of mind and may we not be indifferent to the needs of others.

May we have Thy forgiveness for being so lacking in the spirit of charity and considerateness.

Bless us with the grace of sympathy and understanding, of friendship and kindness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, by Thy grace we have entered upon Holy Week.

We are commemorating events and experiences in the life of our blessed Lord whose solemn and sacred significance our finite minds cannot comprehend.

Grant that with a humble spirit and a contrite heart we may contemplate the redemptive ministry of the Christ, our Saviour.

May this be for all of us, not only a time of commemoration but of renewed consecration when we are filled with a fervent desire to see men and nations redeemed from the darkness and bondage of sin and led into the glorious light and liberty of the sons of God.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose amazing love we cannot fathom in these days of Holy Week, we are calling to mind the sufferings and death and resurrection of the Captain of our Salvation.

We rejoice that when there was no eye to pity and no arm to save, that in the fullness of time Thou didst send Thine only begotten Son to be our Saviour.

Our hearts go out to Thee in gratitude for His redeeming ministry, emancipating mankind from the bondage and power of sin and releasing its hidden splendor.

Give us the glad assurance that the sacrifice of His life on the cross is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world.

Help us to hasten the dawning of that blessed day when the spirit of man shall be too strong for chains and too large for imprisonment.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, unto no one else can we draw so near and ask for so much and unto none can we unburden ourselves so freely and completely.

During these days of Holy Week we are turning our thoughts to that lowly Man of Galilee who shouldered a Roman cross and staggered out to a hill called Calvary to die upon it.

Our hearts are stirred with humility and gratitude as we think of the wonder and beauty of the self-giving love of our blessed Lord, who never harmed or hated anyone.

In the hour of His deepest pain and agony He whispered into the ear of the Eternal a petition of pity and compassion: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Inspire us to pray and labor for that glorious day when the hot embers of ill will and hatred in the heart of men and nations shall be put out forever.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Saviour, and the risen Lord, in whom we find our hope and assurance of eternal life. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in obedience to Thy command and Thy holy will, we are making our applications and petitions unto Thee although Thou art fully acquainted with all our needs and desires, our longings and aspirations.

We earnestly beseech Thee to bestow Thy grace and favor upon our Speaker and the Members of this legislative body as they again assemble in this Chamber to engage in the business of statecraft.

Grant that in our daily life we may never compromise with any pagan standards of living, but may we be single-minded in our devotion to Thee and scrupulous in our loyalty to the principles of justice and righteousness.

Show us how we may bring into reality the dreams of that glorious day when men and nations shall no longer live in dread and fear, in mistrust and suspicion, nor in the darkness of selfishness and self interest.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, help us during this day to live humbly and honestly, sincerely, and serenely, never proving disloyal and recreant to any of our duties but always discharging them faithfully and in the fear of the Lord.

Inspire us with a courageous and confident approach to all our problems, and may we seek to solve them with a trustful and firm reliance upon divine wisdom and strength.

Grant that we may not be timid and cowardly in maintaining our convictions and principles even though they may seem to run counter to popular practice and prejudice.

May we be true, for there are those who trust us; may we be pure, for there are those who care; may we be strong, for there is much to suffer; may we be brave, for there is much to dare.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 6, 1957

O THOU ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, under the canopy of Thy gracious providence, we again assemble in this Chamber, lifting our souls in adoration and thanksgiving, in confession and penitence, in supplication and intercession.

Humbly we acknowledge that daily we must yield our spirits to Thy Spirit if our life is to have worth and meaning, wisdom and strength.

Grant that we may begin this day and all our days with the prayer, "Lord what wilt Thou have me be and do?"

Inspire us to do Thy will more perfectly, for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, to Thy greatness we bring our littleness, to Thy strength our weakness, and to Thy abounding grace our minds and hearts to be cleansed of all unrighteousness and to be guided in the ways of truth and goodness.

Hitherto Thou hast supported and sustained us. We beseech Thee to uphold us still. Make us trustful and triumphant. Answer our loftiest aspirations with Thy divine inspiration. Inspire us with a faith that will make us faithful.

Show us how we may meet and master the temptations and trials which beset us as we labor for a nobler social order and seek to establish upon the earth the kingdom of peace and good will.

Grant that the confusion and chaos of our times may not cause our faith to become eclipsed by the spirit of doubt and defeatism.

In the name of our blessed Lord we offer our petitions. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant that our beloved country, dedicated and devoted to Thy glory and the blessedness of mankind, may be defended by Thy power against all evil.

Vouchsafe to purge our minds and hearts from everything that is contrary and displeasing to Thy holy will and save us from those personal and national sins which expose us most justly to Thy righteous judgments.

May our Speaker and the Members of Congress always be wise in counsel, calm in action, and sincere in motive as they cope with the various problems and events in our national and international life.

Inspire them to legislate in the fear of the Lord, courageously striving to promote and support that which they conscientiously feel will assure the safety and honor, the temporal and spiritual welfare of our Republic.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the sovereign ruler of the universe, grant that during these days of anxiety and distress, Thy divine spirit may be our counselor and companion, our joy and strength.

May all our hopes and aspirations, our deliberations and decisions, our energies and labors be directed to redound to Thy glory and honor and the welfare of humanity.

Give us the courage that shows itself in faithfulness, the wisdom that manifests itself in simiplicity, the power that reveals itself in humility and the greatness that devotes itself in service.

We implore Thee that the manifold resources of our Nation may be used mightily and generously in defending and safeguarding our freedoms and in ministering to the poor and needy, the afflicted and oppressed.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1957

O THOU WHO ART OUR GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS BENEFACTOR and our refuge and strength in every generation, may we be a God-fearing and a God-loving people.

Grant that all our feelings of self-gratification and self-aggrandizement may be submerged and supplanted by larger and more magnanimous sentiments of public good.

Help us to appreciate more fully the blessings of liberty with which we have been entrusted and charged to defend and share with all mankind.

May we seek to hasten the dawning of that day when the good blessings of democracy shall be enjoyed by men and nations everywhere.

To Thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou knowest the duties that lie before us this day, the decisions that we will be called upon to make, and the danger and difficulties that may confront us.

We commend and commit ourselves to Thy divine providence, beseeching Thee that Thy gracious spirit may govern our minds and guide them in ways of wisdom and righteousness.

With a humble spirit and a contrite heart we penitently confess that again and again we live too much without Thee, forsaking Thy precepts and commandments and following our own desires and devices.

Grant that daily we may live and labor to strengthen the weak and confirm the strong in their search and struggle to find a larger measure of happiness and blessedness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art the light of the minds that know Thee, the life of the souls that love Thee, and the strength of the thoughts that seek Thee.

Humbly and gratefully we acknowledge that Thou alone art able to guide us safely through the hours of this new day and to guard us against its perils.

Grant that we may see Thy wise and beneficent purposes in all the dispensations of Thy divine providence and always be eager to follow Thy gracious leading.

We earnestly beseech Thee that it may be our will to obey and serve Thee and our joy to please and glorify Thee.

Show us how we may promote the temporal interests and the spiritual welfare not only of our own beloved country but of all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thine is the strength which supports and sustains us; the holiness which allures and enchants us; the wisdom which inspires and guides us; the pardoning grace which forgives our sins and transgressions.

Take our feeble and faltering spirits and make them the sanctuaries and centers of Thy divine lights and power.

Hear us in our prayers of intercession and supplication for the poor and needy in the stricken areas of our beloved country, and all whose lives are beshadowed by sorrow, haunted by fears, and baffled by perplexities.

Help us to believe that Thy kingdom of truth and righteousness, of peace and good will, is slowly emerging out of the welter of confusion and uncertainty in which we are living and laboring.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, Thou hast entrusted our chosen representatives with a high vocation and charged them with heavy responsibilities.

May Thy Holy Spirit reveal unto them its glorious opportunities and interpret its sacred meaning.

Grant that in times of misgivings and foreboding they may feel Thy gracious presence and be endowed with Thy conquering power.

Inspire them to plan wisely, pray fervently, and labor faithfully for everything that is well-pleasing unto Thee.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we again turn to Thee in prayer, wilt Thou fill our minds with the truth that emancipates and our hearts with the love that consecrates.

Grant that by Thy grace we may be the masters over our troubles and temptations, our doubts and discouragements, our fears and frustrations.

In thought, word, and deed may we seek to be worthy followers of Him who lived the victorious life and went about doing good.

May we be builders of social order in which righteousness and justice shall rule and the spirit of love and brotherhood shall be triumphant over hatred and strife.

Show us how we may have a larger part in helping to mingle all the members of the human family into an alchemy of friendship and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we continue to go forth into the hours of this new day, with its various duties and responsibilities, may our souls be jubilant with praise for the assurance of Thy goodness and loving kindness.

We humbly confess that our minds and hearts are frequently bewildered by the mysteries of life and we seem to be wandering in a valley of deep shadows.

Help us to believe and feel that Thou art always willing to walk with us, a companion to dispel our loneliness and a counselor to guide us in the homeward way.

Grant that amid all the changes and seeming contradictions, which we encounter, we may turn unto Thee and find that peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

Hear us in the name of Him who loves us and gave Himself for us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou art always standing at the door of our hearts waiting to be welcomed and to make them aglow and radiant with the vision of lofty ideals.

Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, and may it be ours to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before Thee all our days.

Show us how in these days of grave responsibilities we may lay hold of the great sources of insight and inspiration, of wisdom and understanding, of faith and fidelity.

Make us more eager and zealous in the high endeavor of gaining a larger measure of health and happiness, of peace and prosperity for all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, on this day of high and holy remembrance, we are calling to mind all who in times of great national trial and tribulations did not fail or falter.

Grant that our hearts may expand with pride and patriotism as we think of their incredible spirit of valor and heroism, of faith and fortitude.

The pages of history relate that they were willing to sacrifice their very all in order to gain and safeguard the blessings of freedom and democracy.

We pray that our own souls may be tempered with some finer essence of the spirit of patience and perseverance, of peace and brotherhood, of forgiveness and forbearance.

Help us daily to long and labor, to plan and pray for the dawning of that glorious day when the rule of force shall give way to the reign of reason and righteousness, and hatred and strife shall be supplanted by love and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1957

ETERNAL GOD WHO ART THE SOURCE OF OUR FAITH AND HOPE, our joy and strength, bless us during this day with a sense of Thy nearness and may we never surrender to moods of doubt and denial.

Thou art here for Thou art everywhere and Thou knowest what we most need. We beseech Thee to take our wandering minds and wayward spirits and fill them with those thoughts and desires which Thou dost delight to satisfy.

Forgive us that we so frequently seek and strive for that which is only transient and temporal rather than for the good that is timeless and eternal.

May Thy whole purpose, passion, and power of our life find their highest fulfillment and freedom in a complete and joyous obedience to Thy holy will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1957

O LORD, OUR GOD, Thou art always gracious and merciful, and dost never withhold from us any needed blessing.

With a humble spirit and a contrite heart, we acknowledge that so often we receive Thy blessings with too little gratitude and use them with too little wisdom.

We pray that Thou wilt continue to bestow upon us the manifold gifts of Thy divine grace, which we so sorely need, as we face the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

Grant that governed by Thy divine will and guarded by Thy boundless love and care, we may meet all our most difficult problems with confidence and courage, with patience and perseverance.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, we call Thee Father for Thou art no respecter of persons. All are the children of Thy household and the sons and daughters of Thy love and care.

We thank Thee for our beloved country which affords men of every color and creed, tongue and tradition, the opportunity, the privilege, and the joy of living and laboring together in the spirit of mutual respect and mutual confidence.

Show us how, as fellow citizens, under the protection of the Stars and Stripes, we may develop our capacities to live a happy and helpful life.

Grant that in seeking to find the righteous and just solution to the problems of human relationships may we always be charitable in our attitude toward all who may have differing convictions and points of view.

Help us to hasten the coming of that golden age of brotherhood when the strong shall bear the burdens of the weak and righteousness and peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE GRACIOUS AND BENEFICENT GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, we rejoice that our beloved country from the beginning of its history has been a haven and home for a vast multitude of Thy children seeking the blessings of freedom.

Grant that in these turbulent and troubled days, when the problems of interhuman relationships seem so acute, we may never allow anything to divide our people and mar that unity of spirit upon which our national security and very existence depend.

May our leaders in church and state be inspired and blessed with a clear vision of Thy divine will and be equal to the arduous task of establishing a social order that has in it the spirit of comradeship and cooperation, of justice and good will.

Help us to speed the coming of that day when not only all who live within the borders of our land but men and nations everywhere shall be merged into a beloved community and into a commonwealth of free and peace-loving people.

We are praying especially for our President, beseeching Thee to hasten his recovery to health and to share Thine eternal wisdom with the doctors and nurses, enabling them to know just what to do. Thou are the Great Physician and we shall give Thee all the praise.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou are daily calling and commanding us to enthrone in our life the spirit of good will and brotherhood of kindness and love.

May we manifest in our character and conduct this spirit which we profess to believe in our hearts.

Grant that we may be partners with one another in the great enterprise of extending this same spirit throughout the whole world.

Help us to think and act in terms of humanity and may the common welfare of each be the concern of all alike.

Give us a profounder sense of our kinship and may we seek to strengthen those ties and bonds which will draw the members of the human family closer together.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, beyond Thee the thoughts of our finite minds cannot go and short of Thee the longings of our troubled hearts cannot find rest and peace.

We rejoice that Thou hast revealed Thyself not only as a Sovereign God who rules in majesty but a loving Father whose heart goes out in mercy and compassion to the wayward and the willful, the sinful and sorrowing.

Thou are always near unto us, moving our minds and hearts with noble aspirations, alluring them with lofty visions and stirring them with mighty hopes.

Grant that we may believe that a sense of Thy divine providence, which always provides, protects, and preserves us, is our deepest need and highest joy.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the strength and support of heroic souls in every generation, we beseech Thee to give us a clearer vision of Thyself, a promise to inspire and guide us, a light to cheer and encourage us.

Grant that we may be more acutely sensitive and more eagerly responsive to Thy voice of wisdom and counsel as we face difficult decisions.

Thou are the wisest of all counselors, the nearest of all companions, and the ablest and most willing to help in finding a just and righteous solution to all our problems.

Deepen within us the confidence and the conviction that the time is coming when men everywhere shall clasp hands in friendship and brotherhood.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who art our light in darkness and our strength in times of trouble, again we feel the need of coming unto Thee in prayer.

We penitently confess that, in days of chaos and confusion, we find it very difficult to muster and maintain our courage and morale.

Give us the unfaltering confidence that there is a spiritual power in the universe working for righteousness and justice no matter how seemingly futile and fruitless our own human efforts may be.

Grant that we may believe and know that Thou hast placed at our disposal the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace and goodness and the guidance of Thy spirit.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we continue in the business of this new day, may we carry on without fear.

May our lives be blessed with that spirit of integrity which remains strong and steadfast in times of hardship and adversity, of trial and temptation.

Inspire us with the glad assurance that when we have conscientiously and honestly tried to do our very best, then we may confidently leave the issues in Thy hands.

Grant that we may appreciate and understand more fully that the measure of our faith and trust in Thee will be the measure of our courage and joy.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1957

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, as we turn to Thee in prayer, may we receive a vivid and vital sense of those spiritual realities and resources which invest life with dignity and worth.

Give us the certainty that none of the high and noble ideals and aspirations which we cherish are too lofty to be fulfilled by Thy divine wisdom and power.

Grant that by Thy grace we may triumph over all our doubts and fears and daily be strengthened in mind and heart by a joyous faith in the Lord God omnipotent.

May our whole life be aglow with a radiant vision of the splendor and glory of that great day when the kingdom of peace and good will shall be established upon the earth.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1957

O THOU WHO ART OUR CREATOR AND BOUNTIFUL BENEFACTOR, we beseech Thee to be present and favorable unto us during this day, granting us grace to discharge our duties in faith and in faithfulness.

We pray that the Members of the Congress may know how to legislate wisely as they daily seek to find the best ways and means of promoting the welfare of all mankind.

Give wisdom to our minds and courage to our hearts and may we never take counsel with our fears or allow anything to shatter and supplant our faith in Thy divine power.

Grant that we may understand more clearly that if our vexing national and international problems are ever to be solved then the souls of men must be touched and transformed by the spirit of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, whom we worship and adore as the supreme ruler of the universe and the beloved companion of our souls, fill our minds and hearts this day with a larger measure of Thy kind and gracious spirit.

We humbly confess that we greatly need Thee for we are so frequently baffled and bewildered by the mysteries and dilemmas of life, its struggles and strifes, its tragedies and tribulations.

Grant that in fidelity to our high calling, we may champion and proclaim proudly and courageously those lofty ideals and principles of democracy which are the secret of our national greatness.

Inspire us to pray and labor for that blessed day when there shall be a new birth of Thy spirit in the heart of all mankind, transforming hatred into love, selfishness into service, and evil into goodness.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou alone art able to supply our many direful needs and to satisfy our deepest longings.

There is no one else who understands us so perfectly and none to whom we may unburden ourselves so freely and completely.

Inspire us with a clear and commanding vision of Thy kingdom of blessedness as we labor for the peace and happiness of all mankind.

May we daily speak a word of kindness and sympathy, of encouragement and good cheer and extend a hand of helpfulness to Thy needy children.

Help us to bring in that glorious time when every need shall be supplied and all shall know Thee from the least to the greatest.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1957

O THOU WHO ART OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH and our help in times of trouble, we are again coming unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer, compelled by our necessities of constrained by Thy love.

Thou knowest that we are greatly concerned and disturbed about the present condition and future welfare of our Republic and the problem of its defense and security.

Grant that all our citizens may be inspired with an indomitable courage and determination to save our beloved country from those corrupting influences and evil forces which are seeking to undermine and destroy our national life.

May our chosen representatives daily give testimony that they have a lofty sense of duty and responsibility and are earnestly striving to achieve blessedness for all mankind.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1957

O THOU ETERNAL AND GRACIOUS SPIRIT, we know that for guidance and understanding, for patience and preserverance, for joy and peace, we need the wisdom and strength of the Lord God Almighty.

Grant that daily, in this Chamber, we may bear witness that we are coveting and cultivating earnestly those ideals and principles which are curative and creative in the building of a nobler civilization.

Give us a glorious vision of the kingdom of truth and righteousness and may we make its consummation and fulfillment, the object of all our hopes and labors.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, we rejoice that Thou art always seeking to draw us within the compass and circuit of Thy divine love.

May the assurance of Thy gracious providence and the memory of Thy goodness follow all the hours of this new day.

Grant that our beloved country, conceived in sacrifice and dedicated to liberty, may be faithful in its glorious mission of safeguarding the principles of democracy.

Inspire us with a faith that is strong and steadfast as we strive to preserve and perpetuate those freedoms and human rights which our forefathers fought so bravely to win.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1957

O THOU GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, whose heart always responds with love to every human need, we are engaging in prayer to invoke the benediction of Thy favor upon us during this day.

Guide us by Thy spirit as we seek ways and means of mediating to all mankind the blessings of health and happiness, of peace and good will.

We beseech Thee to manifest Thy grace unto our chosen representatives who are laboring faithfully and conscientiously to enrich and strengthen our national life.

Show us how we may lift humanity out of the lowlands of fear and frustration unto the lofty heights of courage and confidence, of faith and freedom.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1957

O THOU GOD OF INFALLIBLE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, inspire us during these strange and strenuous days with a renewed assurance of Thy love and care.

We humbly acknowledge that all our plans and labors for the building of a finer social order will be futile and fruitless unless Thou dost guide us with Thy spirit and gird us with Thy power.

Grant that the Members of the Congress may be blessed with great capacities for leadership and abilities to surmount successfully the many difficulties which are daily confronting them.

May we never be cowardly when we must be courageous, never confused when we should be calm, and never fearful when we ought to be strong in faith.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily assemble in this Chamber to engage in the sacred business of politics and statecraft, we beseech Thee to bestow upon us the fatherly benediction of Thy grace and favor.

We rejoice that Thou art always willing and able to make available and mediate unto us, through faith and prayer, the wisdom and strength which we need to discharge our duties and responsibilities faithfully and well.

Grant that our hopes and longings for our own beloved country may be something more than a selfish ambition to achieve material greatness but may it be the goal of all our aims and aspirations to make America a God-fearing and spiritually minded Nation.

Give us a sincere and heartfelt sympathy and concern for the welfare and blessedness of all mankind and in every humanitarian and altruistic adventure may we labor together as partners with all peace-loving nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 15, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, may we enter upon this new week acknowledging gladly and gratefully our complete dependence upon Thy leading.

We are encouraged and sustained by the many gracious promises in Thy Holy Word that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt provide.

Inspire us in our moments of prayer with a reassuring sense of Thy greatness and goodness.

Grant that we may interpret the meaning of life in terms of service and always be the loyal champions of every noble and righteous cause.

May the close of each day be marked by some added measure of accomplishment in giving hope and help to struggling humanity.

Hear us in His name who went about doing good. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, may these days of perplexing problems and difficult decisions be rich and radiant in the manifestation and ministry of Thy holy spirit.

We penitently confess that we only have a vague sense of how to achieve for ourselves and for bruised and broken humanity the blessings of the more abundant life.

Give us a vivid and vital experience of the promptings and persuasion of Thy spirit, seeking to lead us in ways of righteousness and justice and lifting us to the high plateau of joy and peace.

Grant that Thy gracious spirit may rebuke and restrain us when we are tempted to allow the unworthy thoughts of personal aggrandizement to permeate our minds and hearts.

Hear us in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art far beyond the reach of the wisdom and the understanding of our finite and fallible minds.

We rejoice, however, that the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace are always available when we approach Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Guide us this day in the ways of righteousness and peace and in seeking to serve Thee faithfully may we be blessed with the tokens of Thine everlasting favor.

May our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body be richly endowed with the cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Inspire them with a calm and commonsense spirit which is so essential to clear judgment and right decision.

We thank Thee for the character and ministry of one of our colleagues whom Thou hast called unto Thyself. Thou hast opened unto him the gateway to the larger life and received him into Thy nearer presence. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolation of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we again engage in prayer, inspire us with a love that looks up unto Thee in simple and sincere faith and goes out to needy humanity in sympathy and service.

Grant that daily we may cultivate a greater reverence for Thy holy will and the immutable laws which Thou hast ordained for our temporal and eternal welfare.

We pray that, in character and conduct, we may also manifest a hallowed respect for the sanctity of human personality and the rights of the individual for we have all been created in Thine own image and with a capacity to be like Thee in spirit.

May we have within our hearts the testimony and the joy of knowing that we are living a helpful life and dedicating ourselves to the glorious task of serving our beloved country and all mankind.

In Christ's name we invoke Thy blessing. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 22, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER BLESSED GOD, we are entering upon this new week conscious of our need of Thee.

We humbly confess that our human wisdom and strength are unequal to the many tasks which daily confront us.

Inspire us to hear and heed Thy voice and to follow the ways which Thou has marked out for us, for they are the paths of peace.

Grant that our legislators may understand clearly and appreciate fully that good laws are the principal foundation stone of a great nation.

May we all seek to be law-abiding citizens, worthy and capable of participating in the rights and duties of self-government.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1957

O THOU GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, [redacted] we turn our minds and hearts to Thee in prayer, may we experience the blessedness of fellowship with Thy spirit.

Make us more keenly aware of the priceless worth of character, the inevitable influence of conduct, the sacred obligation of duty, and the need of faith and courage.

Grant that we may stand in the noble succession of all who, in every generation, have given themselves sincerely and sacrificially for the freedom and welfare of mankind.

Show us how we may participate more effectively in persuading nations everywhere not to submit their disputes and disagreements to the dreadful arbitrament of war but to the high court of reason and righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose resources of wisdom and strength are always available and abundantly adequate to supply our many needs, may we use them in discharging faithfully the duties of this new day.

Inspire us with a sincere and earnest longing to do that which is well pleasing unto Thee.

Make us acutely sensitive and eagerly responsive to the presence of Thy spirit, girding us with power and guiding us in the ways of truth and righteousness.

Give us clear minds and courageous hearts as we lay hold of tasks which demand the devotion and dedication of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 29, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, encouraged by every gracious invitation in Thy Holy Word, we are coming unto Thee with our prayer of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession.

We acknowledge gratefully that daily the manifestations of Thy grace and goodness far exceed what we deserve or can desire.

Help us to believe that when we have the assurance of Thy counsel and companionship then no task is too arduous, no responsibility too exacting, and no burden too heavy.

Inspire us with a longing to share our many blessings with the needy and show us how we may strengthen the bonds of unity between all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, Thou art the same yesterday and forever and unchanging in Thy love and goodness.

We rejoice in the revelation which Thou hast made of Thyself as the light of the minds that seek Thee and the life of the hearts that serve Thee.

Grant that our beloved country may be great and rich not only in the possessions and power of material resources but in those lofty principles of righteousness and justice and obedience to the laws which Thou hast ordained.

May we be wise and diligent in safeguarding the moral and spiritual values and help us to feel that the noblest contribution which we can make to the life and welfare of mankind is to give ourselves faithfully and sincerely to the task of establishing on earth the kingdom of peace and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1957

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, Thou art the guide and guardian, the counselor and companion of good and upright men and women in every generation.

We confess unto Thee, in humility and contrition, the sins and shortcomings, the faults and failures of our yesterday beseeching Thee to blot them out and remember them no more against us.

May we have the assurance of the guidance of Thy divine spirit for we know that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt provide.

Grant that all the legislation, which we are proposing and enacting, redound to Thy glory and contribute to the health and happiness, the peace and prosperity of men and nations everywhere.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, inspire us during this day with a sense of the grandeur and glory of life and may the manifestation, which Thou hast made of the true, the beautiful, and the good, evoke within us the spirit of gladness and gratitude.

May all the barriers that prevent us from living the free and full life be broken down and may the freedom, which we are seeking to possess and enjoy, always be coordinated with self-discipline.

God forbid that we should ever harbor within our minds and hearts the wrongful feelings of pride and prejudice, of duplicity and dishonesty, of envy and jealousy, of ill will and hatred.

Grant that we may cherish and cultivate the nobler virtues and choose the more excellent ways of humility and self-denial, of kindness and sympathy, of love and service, of charity and considerateness.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, whose presence and power are here and everywhere, may our spirits now be brought into a complete harmony and oneness with Thy spirit.

May we be inspired to choose what Thou dost desire and will to do what Thou dost command.

Bless Thy servants who are daily engaged in considering affairs of great moment and concern in the life of our Nation and the world.

Grant unto them vigor and strength of body and mind as they confront difficult decisions and seek to perform faithfully and diligently the duties of their high calling.

May they have a clear vision of Thy truth, a fearless faith in Thy divine sovereignty, and a confident assurance that righteousness and justice shall prevail.

Hear us in the name of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-PRESENT GOD, Thou art with us in the stillness of the night and the struggles of the day, in the shadows and weariness of the evening, and the sunshine and freshness of the morning.

May Thy Holy Spirit enter our minds and hearts in this moment of prayer to inspire and direct our thoughts and feelings throughout the entire day in the ways of truth and righteousness.

Help us to know and understand that we do not face our tasks and responsibilities alone, for Thou art always at our side waiting to fortify and strengthen us with Thy grace.

We rejoice that Thou art willing and able to take and use our finite human wisdom in achieving Thy great and gracious purposes for the welfare of humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, before we turn our thoughts to the duties and tasks of this new day we would look unto Thee for guidance and strength.

Help us to face the stress and strain of circumstances with patience and perseverance, with confidence and courage, with faith and hope.

We beseech Thee to administer abundantly unto our chosen representatives who are seeking to find and establish laws that are sound and just.

Give them wisdom and understanding as they labor for the relief of poverty, the healing of disease, and for peace among nations.

Bestow Thy grace and favor upon employers and employees everywhere. Bless those whose work is dangerous and difficult, mean and monotonous, exacting and enervating.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE GUIDING SPIRIT in the life of men and of nations, we rejoice that Thou art always seeking to lead us in the ways of peace and righteousness.

Grant that we may follow Thy leading more eagerly and willingly for hitherto Thou hast blessed us and we have found Thee faithful unto all Thy promises.

We humbly confess that daily we greatly need Thee, in our weakness to strengthen us, in our sorrow to comfort us, in our times of success and prosperity to keep us from pride and presumption.

Show us how our character and conduct, our example and influence may be a blessing to others; where there is darkness may we be messengers of light; where there is fear may we be ambassadors of courage; where there is doubt and worry and anxiety may we be the heralds of hope and a better day; where there are hearts that are bruised and broken may we minister unto them with the healing balm of sympathy and consolation.

In Christ's name we offer our petitions. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR CREATOR AND BENEFACTOR, Thou has created us with a capacity to be like Thee in spirit and blessed us with minds to know Thee and hearts to love Thee.

Give us now a satisfying and reassuring sense of Thy presence, Thy peace, and Thy power, and may we see all our problems and responsibilities in their true measure and right perspective.

Grant that we may never champion any cause or embark upon any enterprise that is not fully in accord with Thy holy will for ourselves and all mankind.

May we seek and covet earnestly Thy guidance and help as we face our appointed tasks and may this be a day of marked accomplishment in establishing a nobler civilization.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, Thou hast given us the night, which is now past, for rest and refreshing sleep and the new day, upon which we have entered, for work and service.

May the struggles and strains, the hardships and hazards of life never tempt us to yield to doubt and despair and cause us to be careless and cynical, for Thou art here and everywhere and we are never alone.

Emancipate us from all feelings of scorn and self-pity as our finite and fallible minds face so much that is obscure, and so many problems for which we do not seem to have a satisfactory and right solution.

Grant that we may be inspired and sustained by a sense of Thy greatness and goodness whenever we encounter arduous tasks and difficult decisions.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art daily blessing us so abundantly, hear us as we now approach Thy throne of grace with prayers of supplication and intercession.

We thank Thee that we may commend and commit unto Thy gracious providence not only our own personal and individual needs and longings but those of all the members of the human family.

Humbly and penitently we confess that we are doing so little to make the struggle of life less difficult for others. We are eager to get and possess the good things of life but reluctant to give and to share them. We have been severe in our criticizing of our fellow men but so lenient and indulgent with ourselves.

Forgive us for being indifferent to the pitiful appeals of the poor and lowly, the weary and heavy ladened, the worried and anxious, and the less privileged who are the victims of adversity and trying circumstances.

Grant that we may abound in the spirit of charity and benevolence, of sympathy and service, of kindness and good will, and may we always be willing to bear our due share of the world's burdens.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1957

GOD OF ALL GRACE, in whom our fathers trusted and were not put to confusion, may we greet this new day with renewed energy and vigor and with minds and hearts inspired by the spirit of love and service.

Bless our President, our Speaker, and our chosen representatives who are laboring so earnestly and conscientiously for the peace and security of our beloved country and the good of all mankind.

Deliver us from all paralyzing fears and anxieties as we face the unknown tomorrows, for Thou art the companion of the lonely, the support of the weary, and the consolation of the sorrowing.

May we renounce all feelings of self-dependence and self-sufficiency and put our trust in the Lord God Omnipotent, whose wisdom is infallible and whose strength is invincible.

Give us a generous and gentle heart toward the needy, who have so little of joy, remembering that what we do unto the least of Thy children we are doing unto Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave His all for us.

To Thy name we ascribe the praise and the glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose grace we are privileged and permitted to enter upon a new day, make us eager to conserve the good which we have gained from our yesterdays and all the days that are past.

Inspire us with Thy grace to cooperate with one another in reaching out to loftier fields of endeavor and in making each succeeding day even more glorious.

Grant that we may manifest Thy grace in all of life's human contacts and relationships. Give us the grace to practice the Golden Rule and to forgive those who have wronged us, as Thou art always forgiving us.

May we cultivate the grace to refrain from hasty speech and harsh judgments; the grace that is tolerant and charitable toward the thoughts and opinions of others; the grace that will make us courageous enough to change our minds when that is needed.

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1957

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art always standing at the door of our hearts waiting to be welcomed and to bestow upon us the blessings of Thy grace and goodness.

May we acknowledge, gratefully and gladly, that at no moment of the day do we lack Thy kind and beneficent care, and never are we compelled to carry on in our own strength alone.

Grant that we may be more sensitive and responsive to Thy voice calling us to be faithful stewards of Thy manifold blessings.

We rejoice that Thou dost graciously condescend to take our feeble and faulty human efforts and use them in fulfilling Thy blessed purposes for all mankind.

Give us a vivid sense of Thy presence and a vital experience of Thy power as we labor for the security of our beloved country and the peace of the world.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1957

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE of every good and perfect gift, inspire us in our moments of prayer with lofty ideals and aspirations and with the wisdom and the will to fulfill them.

May we be grateful for the hallowed memories of the past and mindful of our eternal destiny as the children of Thy love and care.

Grant that we may be humble in our estimate of ourselves, never relying upon our own human ingenuity and seeking our own glory.

Make us faithful and diligent in performing the duties of our high vocation, discharging all our appointed tasks without thought of praise or reward.

Constrain us to be honorable in all our dealings with our fellow men and may our honesty never be only a matter of policy but of principle.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, in our prayer at this noon hour, we would thank Thee for friends who, amid the turmoil and tumult of our days, are always greeting us with the salutation, "Be of good cheer," and urging us to carry on with faith and fortitude.

We rejoice that we may lean upon them for counsel and look unto them for encouragement as we find ourselves challenged by problems and tasks which demand the consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Give us a greater appreciation of the blessedness of friendship and may our hearts go out to Thee in gratitude for friends who are solicitous about our welfare and continually giving us a lift when we are weary and downcast and the burdens of life are heavy to bear.

May we be grateful above all for the divine friendship of our blessed Lord; that Friend who sticketh closer than a brother and upon whom we count through thick and thin; that Friend who is always teaching us to put our trust in Thee and willing to forgive and forget all our sins and mistakes.

Help us to hasten the dawning of that glorious day when men all around the world shall be friends and live together in the bonds of brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Friend. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, the new day is challenging us with duties we dare not shirk and decisions which will affect not only our own lives but the lives of many others.

We humbly confess that, again and again, we face our tasks and responsibilities with baffled minds and troubled hearts for we are in doubt as to what we ought to do.

Grant that we may hear and heed Thy voice as Thou dost say unto us: "This is the way, walk ye therein."

Help us to bring in that glorious day when there shall be peace on earth and good will among all men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1957

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, may this be a day of noble and worthy achievement and at the evening hour may we receive the benediction which Thou dost bestow upon the faithful.

Grant that in all our plans and purposes we may be eager to seek and possess the certainty of Thy gracious presence, the counsel of Thy divine wisdom, and the consolation of Thy understanding heart.

Give us the blessings of insight and inspiration, and may we live out each day in faith, in faithfulness, and in the fear of the Lord.

When we come to the close of this session of the Congress may we have within our hearts the testimony that in all our efforts and work we have sought to do that which is well pleasing unto Thee.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1957

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we begin each new day with the unshakable confidence that our lives are in Thy divine keeping and control.

We thank Thee for the glad and glorious assurance that no needed blessing wilt Thou withhold from us if we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord.

Inspire us with a strong and steadfast faith as we seek and strive continuously to achieve for ourselves and all mankind a larger measure of the more abundant life.

May we never become weary in well-doing and allow our energies to be depleted by fear and worry.

Grant that when we falter and fail we may not lose heart or hope for Thou art always ready to restore and rehabilitate us if we are willing to try again.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1957

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we thank Thee for the high and holy privilege we have had during this session of the Congress of daily walking and working together in the service of our God, our country, and humanity.

We pray that, as we look back upon the yesterdays, may we feel that we have tried to blend our wills with Thine in the great task of establishing a nobler social order.

May we have joy of knowing that we have sought to affirm and champion courageously whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, and whatsoever things are of good report.

Grant that when the hour of adjournment comes and we leave this Chamber, may we commend and commit one another and all, who are near and dear unto us, to Thy love and care.

May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; may the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace. Amen.

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

Second Session

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1958

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are entering upon this 2d session of the 85th Congress, commending and committing ourselves humbly and trustfully to the light and leading of Thy divine Spirit.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all our chosen Representatives may be richly endowed with wisdom as they strive to safeguard our freedom and make this Nation the kind of a democracy which Thou hast intended and ordained it to be.

Help us to see and understand more clearly the relation of our material and spiritual resources to our responsibilities and may our plans and purposes include and embrace not only the intensive needs of our own beloved country, but the extensive opportunities for service to all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace, who hath taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1958

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thy gracious providence is our shield in the stillness of the night and our strength in the struggles of each new day.

We rejoice that in times of great crisis and confusion we may avail ourselves of the companionship and counsel of our blessed Lord.

Help us to appreciate more fully our need of accepting the Master's overtures of friendship if, during these days, we would be impervious to any despondent and hysterical tempers of mind and heart.

Grant that the Members of Congress may be men and women of faith and courage who know how to meet every mountain of difficulty without fear or frustration.

May nothing ever undermine our trust in the conquering and invincible power of truth and righteousness.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1958

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, whom we reverently worship and adore as the light of all that is true and the strength of all that is good, inspire us during this day with a splendor of faith and fortitude which nothing can ever eclipse or extinguish.

We pray that our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body may be abundantly blessed with the sustaining and strengthening ministry of Thy Spirit as they endeavor to find the most efficient and effective ways and means of defending and maintaining our heritage of freedom.

Grant that with all our plans and efforts to enlarge and expand our material resources we may never fail to see that it is our highest wisdom to cultivate a greater confidence in those moral and spiritual resources which Thou hast placed at our disposal.

May the ethic of good will and love, of justice and righteousness, of brotherhood and friendship, be the foundation stone upon which we are seeking to build our Republic, a better world and an enduring civilization.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1958

GOD OF ALL GRACE, we have entered upon this day beseeching Thee to inspire us with new ventures of faith, new vistas of hope, and new visions of a love bringing all mankind into a glad and grateful obedience to Thy holy will.

Grant that we may minister more faithfully and generously to the needs of men and nations everywhere as they look eagerly and wistfully for a light to illuminate the skyline of their loftiest aspirations.

May our differences in party politics never mar or break that unity of spirit and cooperation which is so sorely needed as we seek to gain those blessings of peace and prosperity which none can ever find or enjoy alone.

We thank Thee for the life and character of Thy servant whom Thou hast called unto Thyself. Thou hast opened unto him the gateway of the more abundant life and received him into Thy nearer presence. Give unto the members of the bereaved family Thy divine consolation.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1958

Psalm 27: 14: *Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, Thou art always speaking unto us through Thy Holy Word.

May we daily hear Thy voice calling and commanding us to commit our ways unto the Lord.

We rejoice that the words of the Holy Scriptures are a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Incline our hearts to heed those sacred words for he that followeth them shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

Give us such a love of Thy truth that we shall come to know the truth of Thy love.

In the name of the Christ, the Eternal Word, we offer our petitions. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1958

Ecclesiastes 12: 13: *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that in our moment of prayer our listless and languid spirits may be quickened into newness of life and touched to finer and nobler issues.

We penitently confess that frequently we are guilty of the incredible folly of trying to solve our problems and discharge the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation without first holding counsel with the God of all wisdom.

May our sense of duty and our vision of the ultimate triumph of justice and righteousness, of peace and good will, be so clear and commanding that we shall never yield to doubt and defeatism.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1958

II Timothy 2: 15: *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we have entered upon a new week challenged by tasks and responsibilities which demand the consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Grant, as colleagues and coworkers, we may feel that America's great hour has come when we must strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of our Republic if we are to survive and help build a finer civilization.

Inspire us with the firm conviction and the glad assurance that we are always living and laboring for the one thing of supreme importance when we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1958

Isaiah 26: 3: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.*

O THOU WHOSE NAME IS LOVE and in whom we find that perfect love, which casteth out all fear, help us to meet our daily duties and difficulties with faith and fortitude.

Grant that in these strange and strenuous days we may never lose heart or hope.

Humbly we confess that we are frequently more conscious of our problems and perplexities than we are of Thy gracious providence and Thy peace which passeth all understanding.

We thank Thee for Thy servant, one of our colleagues, who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Give unto his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Thou didst not lose him in giving him to us. So we have not lost him by his return to Thee, for what is Thine is ours always.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1958

I John 2: 17: *He that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may our life and labors always be in accord with Thy holy will and well pleasing unto Thee.

Grant that each day we may have a vivid and vital sense of Thy divine counsel and companionship, inspiring our minds with understanding and our hearts with peace.

Thou art able to take and use our finite wisdom and frail human strength in fulfilling Thy blessed purposes for all mankind.

We are commending unto Thee the needs and longings of Thy children everywhere for Thy concern for them is far greater than our own.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1958

Matthew 6: 33: *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, earnestly and humbly, we are beseeching Thee that the hours of this day may be filled with joyous and helpful service.

Thou hast made known unto us Thy great and beneficent purpose of establishing upon the earth a kingdom whose foundation stones are the virtues and principles of righteousness and justice, of love and friendship, of peace and good will.

We rejoice that Thou dost graciously condescend to use our poor human efforts and energies in building that kingdom and in breaking down the dividing walls between the nations.

Grant that here in this council chamber the Members of the Congress may be inspired with a vision of that glorious time when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords shall reign supremely in the mind and heart of all mankind.

To Thy name we ascribe the glory and the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1958

I Corinthians 13: 13: *Now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, to turn away from Thee is to fall, but to abide in Thee is to stand fast forever.

We penitently confess that there is so much in our life which sorely perplexes us and we frequently wander in doubt and walk in darkness, uncertain of the way.

Grant that in our noonday prayer we may be lifted to larger outlooks, clearer visions, and new fields of endeavor.

May we daily grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, whom to know aright is life eternal.

Inspire us with a victorious faith, an unconquerable hope, and a love that endures forever.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1958

Psalm 46: 1: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, who art the inspiration of our prayers and their answer, grant that our minds and hearts may be the sanctuaries of Thy light and love.

Show us how to walk the way of life without fear for Thine is the strength which sustains us, the wisdom which guides us, and the grace which redeems us.

Inspire us with a clear vision of that kingdom of truth and righteousness, of peace and good will which is slowly and surely emerging out of the welter of crisis and confusion in which we daily live and labor.

Help us to believe that no hope vouchsafed to our human souls is too high or holy to be fulfilled by Thy divine goodness and power.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1958

Ephesians 3: 16: *That ye may be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art always standing at the door of our hearts waiting to be welcomed and wanting to be known and trusted.

Make us sensitive and responsive to the promptings of Thy spirit, seeking to transform us from what we are to what we ought to be.

May we always be eager to yield ourselves to Thy goodness for our littleness needs Thy greatness and our weakness needs Thy strength.

Grant that nothing may eclipse our faith and obscure our hope as we continue to pray and labor for the peace of the world.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1958

John 20: 27: *Be not faithless, but believing.*

O LORD, OUR GOD, we are now coming unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer, constrained by the wonder of Thy love and compelled by the direness of our many needs.

We rejoice that Thou hast made the way so plain and clear that whosoever will may come unto Thee.

Grant that daily we may seek Thy truth and righteousness and follow those ways which Thy hast marked out for us.

Help us to build a better world and hasten the dawning of that glorious day when all shall know Thee, from the least to the greatest.

To Thy name we ascribe the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1958

Philippians 4: 19: *My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that we may now be drawn together in unity of spirit and in one solemn and lofty aspiration to heed Thy voice of gentle stillness calling us to renew our faith and courage.

We know that without Thee our life ebbs out its little day in weakness and weariness, in futility and frustration.

Teach us the great secret of life learned by all whose hearts are filled with joy and peace that we must surrender our wills to Thine in complete obedience.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1958

Psalms 133: 1: *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we beseech Thee that these days of Brotherhood Week may be radiant with visions of those high and helpful things which we may do together and for one another as members of the human family.

Grant that, as brothers of the Son of Man, our minds and hearts may be impervious to all attitudes which are alien to the spirit of our blessed Lord.

May we resolve more earnestly to covet and cultivate those feelings of sympathy and kindness and be eager to extend the hand of helpfulness to the weary and heavy laden and speak that word of hope and good cheer to the lonely and sorrowing which will enable them to carry on courageously and faithfully.

Show us how we may help bring in that day of blessedness when men and nations everywhere shall live together on the higher levels of peace and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1958

Isaiah 40: 31: *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou are always seeking to renew our strength and courage with assurances and promises of Thy divine counsel and companionship.

We humbly confess that so frequently we follow the paths of our own choice instead of those which Thou hast marked out for us.

Grant that when this day comes to a close and the evening shadows fall there may be within our minds and hearts no disturbing memories but only Thy peace.

Show us how we may heal our fear-ridden and brokenhearted world of the maladies of hatred and ill will, of selfishness and prejudice.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1958

Philippians 2: 5: *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we have entered upon the Lenten season; commemorating days whose sacred significance our finite minds and fallible wisdom cannot fully comprehend.

We earnestly beseech Thee that we may contemplate and ponder their meaning with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Grant that we may be more sensitive and responsive to the appeals and overtures of the mind of our blessed Lord.

May we daily bear witness to our kinship and fellowship with the spirit of the lowly Man of Galilee who went about doing good, giving His strength to the weak, His sympathy to the sorrowing, His substance to the poor, and His heart to God.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1958

Acts 24: 16: *Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, sustained by Thy gracious providence, we enter upon a new day, beseeching Thee that we may discharge faithfully the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

May we be tireless in our efforts, unwavering in our loyalty, unfaltering in our courage, and invincible in our hope as we strive to establish on earth Thy kingdom of peace.

Guide us by Thy spirit in our endeavor to find a just and righteous solution to the many difficult social, political, and economic problems which confront our day and generation.

Help us to acquire and cultivate a nobler skill in the fine art of brotherly living.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1958

Psalm 55: 16–17: *As for me, I will call upon God. Evening and morning and at noon, will I pray: and He shall hear my voice.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, Thou art high and holy but always waiting to welcome all who come unto Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Grant that during this day our wills may be brought into complete harmony with Thy divine will for our wills are ours to make them Thine.

May our minds and hearts be kindled with a greater zeal and enthusiasm for those moral and spiritual realities and resources which Thou hast ordained for the building of a nobler civilization.

We pray that we may sense our responsibilities in the realm of universal history and strive to gain for all mankind the blessings which we daily ask and seek for ourselves.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1958

Psalm 119: 105: *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, Thou knowest how anxious and deeply concerned we are about the safety and security of our beloved country in these strange and baffling times.

Humbly we acknowledge that again and again we seem to be wandering in a maze, uncertain of the way and wondering what a new day may bring to us. We are "like an infant in the night, an infant crying for the light, and with no language but a cry."

We penitently confess that we are sometimes greatly bewildered and confused and frightened when we think of the vast and marvelous amount of physical power which now belongs to our modern world.

Grant that the minds and hearts of men may be illuminated by Thy Holy Word and endowed with those moral and spiritual controls which will direct and channel this power and energy to safe and beneficent ends and for Thy glory and the blessedness of all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1958

Micah 6: 8: *He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, Thou hast created and endowed us with a capacity to achieve and accomplish that which is good for ourselves and all mankind.

Grant that in their high office and vocation to minister to the welfare of humanity, our President, our Speaker, and the Congress may merit Thy divine favor and be held in honor by their fellow citizens.

We beseech Thee to bless them with the wisdow and the guidance of Thy spirit as they seek to lift and lessen the burdens which weigh so heavily upon many members of the human family.

Where there is darkness and gloom may they be the messengers of light; where there are fears and frustrations may they be the ambassadors of courage; where there is cynicism and despair may they be heralds proclaiming a better and brighter day.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1958

Revelation 19: 9: *The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art always speaking unto us through Thy holy word. Grant that our minds and hearts may be blessed with the interpreting light of Thy divine spirit. May Thy word be as good seed, sown in good ground and bearing fruit an hundredfold for Thee. To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1958

Amos 5: 6: *Seek ye the Lord, and ye shall live.*

ETERNAL GOD OUR FATHER, Thou art found by those who truly seek Thee, known by those who love, and seen by all whose hearts are pure.

Grant that, relying upon Thy divine grace, we may manifest a fidelity which never fails and a courage which never falters.

Show us how we may strengthen the spirit of mutual appreciation and understanding, of friendship and cooperation, of peace and good will among all the nations of the earth.

May it be our supreme desire to magnify Thy great and holy name.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1958

John 10: 10: *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME SOURCE AND INSPIRATION of our life, show us how we may have a larger part in building a nobler civilization.

Give us a clear vision of the place and function of government and politics in achieving for humanity the blessings of the more abundant life.

Grant that we may seek to do Thy will more perfectly, for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Help us to hasten the dawning of that glorious day of prediction when all shall know Thee from the least to the greatest.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1958

I Thessalonians 5: 21: *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we invoke the blessings of Thy grace and power for Thou alone art our help for each new day and our hope for every unknown tomorrow.

We beseech Thee to emancipate us from all feelings of fear and foreboding and fill our minds and hearts with that peace which the world cannot give or take away.

May our character and conduct, private and public, always find their inspiration in the great moral and spiritual principles, rather than in expediency.

Show us how we may incarnate and emulate the spirit of our blessed Lord, that spirit of compassion and consideration, of love and kindness which always sought the welfare of humanity.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1958

Galatians 6: 9: *Let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we beseech Thee to be present and favorable unto these Thy servants as they again assemble in this Chamber to engage in the business of statecraft.

We pray that Thou wilt increase the ardor of our efforts in well-doing and help us to mobilize our faith in the abiding reality and the invincible strength of the moral and spiritual resources.

Grant that we may hasten the dawning of that day when all shall know Thee, and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord.

We thank Thee for the life and character of our colleague who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. May the members of his bereaved family find their consolation in Thee.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1958

Proverbs 3: 5: *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we humbly and penitently confess that again and again we enter upon a new day hesitatingly and wistfully for we fail to put our trust in Thy grace and goodness.

Inspire us to follow Thy leading with a firm step and with a courage of heart which nothing can daunt and a splendor of faith which will never be eclipsed by doubt and despair.

Grant that our plans and purposes for the health and happiness of our beloved country and all mankind may receive Thy benediction and redound to Thy glory.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1958

Psalm 33: 12: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, grant that during this day we may walk and work in the fear of the Lord as we strive to maintain the high idealism of our Republic.

May all who serve our beloved country in the affairs of Government bear clear and courageous testimony to their faith in Thy divine providence which is ever 'round about us.

We earnestly beseech Thee that our chosen representatives may discharge faithfully the duties which demand the dedication of their noblest manhood and womanhood.

Give us a reassuring vision of how truly great and blessed our Nation will be if we avail ourselves of the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace.

May Thy holy name be glorified. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1958

Matthew 5: 16: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

O THOU WHO ART OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, we thank Thee for this new day, which has come as a fresh gift from Thy hand, bringing with it many glorious opportunities to serve Thee and our fellow men.

We pray that Thou wilt mediate unto our minds and hearts Thy divine wisdom that we may see our responsibilities more clearly, understand them more wisely, and discharge them more faithfully.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and the Members of this legislative body may be blessed with insight and inspiration as they take counsel together in solving our national problems and in emancipating suffering and struggling humanity from the evil forces of aggression and aggrandizement.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1958

Zachariah 4: 6: *Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we be numbered among those who daily walk in the ways of godliness and goodness, meeting our most arduous tasks with faith and fortitude.

We humbly acknowledge that so frequently we are tempted to feel that our longings and struggles for peace on earth and good will among men are futile.

Grant unto us a greater confidence in the glorious prediction that the day is coming when men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and all shall know Thee.

May we find our help and hope, our calmness and courage in the conquering love and spirit of the Lord of hosts.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1958

James 4: 8: *Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto thee.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art always calling and constraining us to draw nigh unto Thee in prayer with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

We are now coming unto Thee, bringing many things that we cannot leave behind; our sins and shortcomings, our failures and frustrations, our problems and perplexities, beseeching Thee that we may find Thy grace sufficient for all our needs.

Help us to feel that Thou are daily seeking to deepen our faith and to strengthen our feeble wills with Thy sustaining power.

May all the barriers which prevent us from entering into an intimate and joyous fellowship with Thee, be broken down.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1958

I Corinthians 16: 13: *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL MIGHT AND MAJESTY, may we go through the hours of this day with a strong and steadfast faith in Thy guiding and gracious presence.

We confess penitently that our finite minds and hearts are tempted frequently to surrender to the spirit of discouragement and defeatism.

Grant that we may accept Thy divine leading with courage and confidence, assured that when we follow Thee we shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who proclaimed himself to be the Light of the world. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1958

Job 28: 28: *And unto man God said, Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may all the thoughts of our minds and the meditations of our hearts always be guided by the counsel of Thy Holy Word.

We earnestly beseech Thee to bestow upon us the wisdom which fears the Lord and the understanding which departs from evil.

Grant that our lives may be radiant with a sense of Thy presence, grateful with an appreciation of Thy providence, and joyous with an assurance of Thy love.

Inspire us with an intense desire to hasten the dawning of that better day when there shall be a new birth of Thy gracious spirit in the soul of mankind, transforming evil into goodness, hatred into love, and selfishness into service.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1958

Psalm 84: 11: *No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER who art the source and inspiration of all that is good, we thank Thee for the joys which cheer us and the trials which teach us to put our trust in Thee.

Make us grateful for the opportunity and privilege of having some part in solving the many perplexing problems in this busy world of human affairs and human relations.

May we be blessed with a clearer vision and a richer experience of the eternal truth of God which will set us free from the doubts that darken our minds and the fears that weaken our faith.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1958

John 3: 16: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we have entered upon Holy Week, reminding us of events and experiences in the life of our blessed Lord, whose solemn and sacred significance our finite minds cannot comprehend.

Grant that we may be filled with a penitent and humble spirit as we turn to the cross to mediate upon the sufferings and sacrifice of the lowly Man of Galilee, the great Captain of our salvation.

May these days be for all of us not merely a time of commemoration but of consecration when we are surrendering and dedicating ourselves anew in love and obedience to Thy divine will.

To Thy name we lift our hearts in praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1958

I Timothy 1: 15: *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose amazing love we cannot fathom, we thank Thee that when there was no eye to pity and no hand to help, then, in the fullness of time, Thou didst send the Christ to be our Saviour.

We rejoice that He gave Himself a ransom for all and became the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Inspire us to share in His glorious mission of releasing the hidden splendor of humanity and redeeming it from everything that defiles and degrades the image of God in which man has been created.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1958

John 14: 19: *Because I live, ye shall live also.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may these days of Holy Week fill us with a new appreciation and understanding of Thy divine love which transcends all human love.

We thank Thee for the King of Kings, who on Palm Sunday, proclaimed His sovereignty and the High Priest who, on Good Friday laid upon the altar the acceptable sacrifice of His own life for the salvation of the world.

Grant that Easter Sunday, commemorating His resurrection, may give us the assurance of immortality and inspire us to rise with Him into newness of life and seek those things which are above, where Christ dwelleth.

During the Easter recess may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1958

Hosea 14: 9: *The ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them.*

O THOU BLESSED AND ETERNAL GOD, grant that the Members of this legislative body may now return to the arduous duties and responsibilities of their high vocation with minds and hearts refreshed and illumined by Thy divine Spirit.

May they daily walk in the way of Thy wise and holy commandments and be inspired to believe and feel and know that Thou art always seeking to be their counselor and companion as they find themselves challenged by many difficult national and international problems.

Keep us in the ways of honor and humility. Gird us with faith and fidelity. Enable us to carry on with confidence and courage. Give us patience and perseverance as we earnestly labor for the dawning of the day of universal peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1958

Deuteronomy 33: 25: *As thy days, so shall thy strength be.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that in these strange and strenuous times, we may constantly and confidently avail ourselves of Thy divine wisdom which does not err and the strength which does not falter.

We penitently confess that again and again we are more conscious of our perplexities than we are of Thy gracious providence.

May we not be cowardly when we ought to be courageous nor confused when we ought to be calm and never fickle when we ought to be faithful.

Help us to labor earnestly and pray fervently for the coming of that blessed day when men and nations shall give allegiance to the King of kings who rules not with the rod of iron but with the scepter of justice, righteousness, mercy, and love.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1958

Matthew 5: 9: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art always instructing us in the ways of truth and righteousness and inspiring us to be peacemakers.

Help us to bring our lives consciously and continuously into complete harmony with what Thou dost desire and demand.

Grant that when anxieties and doubt assail us we may find our joy and strength in the glorious promise that, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

May we be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, for Thou art our God forever and ever and will be our guide even unto death.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1958

John 4: 24: *God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, may our spirits now come into contact and communion with Thy Spirit to receive insight and inspiration for the duties and demands of the new day.

Grant that all the plans and purposes of our minds and hearts be brought under the spell and sway of the guiding and interpreting light of Thy divine Spirit.

Make us more acutely sensitive and more eagerly responsive to the promptings and persuasion of Thy spirit as Thou dost summon us to follow the ways of truth and righteousness.

May it be our loftiest aspiration to incarnate the spirit of our blessed Lord and to manifest that spirit in all the spheres of human relationship.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1958

Daniel 6: 10: *Daniel kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed, the windows in his chamber being open toward Jerusalem.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we enter upon this new day, refreshed in body and spirit, and ready to accept the challenge of the most arduous task and the heaviest responsibility.

Inspire us daily to open the windows of our souls toward Thee and may our whole life be filled with the splendor of Thy presence and peace and a sense of Thy divine grace and glory.

Grant that we may cultivate a larger capacity for all that is noblest and best and may we never be tempted to lower the lofty standards of life which Thou hast ordained, for we know that nothing less than the highest will ever satisfy our souls.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1958

I Thessalonians 5: 17–18: *Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, hitherto Thou hast blessed us and we have found Thee keeping faithfully all Thy promises.

May our minds now be kindled with noble desires and our hearts be quickened with lofty aspirations.

Grant that our lives may be rich in the realization of Thy presence and fruitful in service for God and man.

Make us worthy citizens of Thy heavenly kingdom; men and women of invincible good will; builders of a social order in which righteousness reigns and the law of love is triumphant over hatred and strife.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1958

Ephesians 6: 10: *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*

O GOD OF ALL MIGHT AND MAJESTY, Thou art always exhorting us to pray that we may know the secret of a strong and happy life.

Thou art of all teachers the wisest; of all friends the nearest. No one else sees so much in us; no one cares so much for us; no one expects so much of us.

Emancipate us from everything that undermines our character and holds us back from a complete surrender to the way, the truth, and the life of our blessed Lord.

Help us to believe that our minds and hearts must be ruled by His spirit and lofty ideals if we are to have freedom from fear and frustration and victory over crisis and confusion.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1958

John 9: 4: *I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly and gratefully we lift up our souls unto Thee as the source of life and light and love.

May we accept this new day with all that it has of risk and responsibility, of peril and possibility, as a gracious gift and a glorious opportunity.

Grant that in these bleak and bitter times, we may lay hold of our duties with vigor and courage, putting all our endowments and talents, our capabilities and capacities to the utmost use.

Help us to hasten the coming of that blessed day of prediction when all that is evil shall be supplanted by that which is good and righteousness shall reign supremely.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1958

I Corinthians 10: 24: *Let no man seek his own, but everyone another's welfare.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we are again gathering under the canopy of Thy grace and goodness, coming unto Thee with our prayers of confession, of thanksgiving, of supplication, and of intercession.

Deliver us from the fears that eclipse and weaken our faith, the errors which blind and obscure our vision, and the doubts which deplete and dwarf our energies.

Grant that daily we may be inspired with a deep longing to understand the will and ways of God. Help us to live spiritually and think scientifically, uniting the old values of the spirit with a new vision of the universe and its laws.

Fill us also with a greater sense of social obligation and responsibility, and may we feel more keenly that none liveth unto himself, but that humanity is one in need and nature and destiny.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1958

Isaiah 43: 5: *Fear not, for I am with thee.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF OUR LIFE, ruling not by fear or force, but by the power of truth and winsomeness of an infinite love, may we give ourselves gladly to the leading of Thy divine Spirit.

We rejoice that Thou are always seeking to minister to our needs, quieting our restlessness, healing our heartaches, comforting our sorrows, and cleansing us of our sins.

Help us to believe that Thou alone canst cast out our fears and haunting loneliness and open unto us the windows of light and hope.

Grant that the purpose and passion of our life during the day may be that of doing Thy will faithfully and gratefully.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1958

I John 3: 1: *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.*

ETERNAL GOD, with glad and grateful hearts, we are offering our prayer unto Thee, for Thou art the source and inspiration of the beauty and blessedness of life.

We rejoice that Thou art always seeking to lead us to Thyself and to lift us out of the fear that makes us stand in weakness into a faith that enables us to walk in courage.

Inspire us with a vision and experience of true religion. We penitently confess that so often we want its consolations, without giving ourselves in consecration, and its delights without accepting its disciplines.

Grant that we may seek a more satisfying sense of Thy power which will make us equal to all our problems and perplexities, and all our trials and tribulations.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1958

II Thessalonians 3: 13: *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, help us during this day to appreciate and understand more fully the wonder of Thy grace and goodness.

Thy love and mercy are like the sunshine and the rain, falling on the just and the unjust in impartial benediction.

May we be partners with one another in our quest of the more abundant life and in bringing its blessings to all mankind.

Give us calm and courageous hearts as we strive to build Thy kingdom of truth and righteousness on earth.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1958

Hebrews 13: 1: *Let brotherly love continue.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly and penitently we are uniting our hearts in the fellowship of prayer, seeking together those blessings which none can ever find or enjoy alone.

Thou knowest how greatly we need Thee, Thy presence to purify, Thy light to lead, and Thy love to transfigure us, for we so frequently walk the ways of doubt, of denial, and disillusionment.

We earnestly beseech Thee to take away from us all selfishness, all pride, all indifference, and everything that prevents us from entering into an intimate communion with Thy spirit.

Grant that we may be eager to enthrone Thy love in our minds and hearts and labor to have Thy will done on earth as it is done in Heaven.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1958

Romans 8: 9: *Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His.*

O THOU GOD OF OUR SPIRITS we are coming unto Thee in prayer to have our doubts dispelled, our wrongheartedness corrected, our sorrows healed, and our sins cleansed away.

Inspire us to be more eager to accept and act upon the gracious words which came from the lips of our blessed Lord.

We humbly acknowledge that we are so frequently content to live on a lower level and to walk in a less lofty way.

May we consider that we only belong to Him and are following Him when we have His spirit of love and good will.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1958

Psalm 31: 24: *Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart; all ye that hope in the Lord.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we now offer unto Thee our prayers of gladness and gratitude for Thou art our help for today and our hope for tomorrow.

From Thy great heart of grace and goodness our own human hearts draw their loftiest aspirations, their love and longing for truth, and their hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Grant that our vision of Thy divine will may be so clear and commanding that all that is within us shall rise up and follow it.

Inspire us in the tumult and terror of these days to look unto Thee for strength and courage.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1958

Luke 8: 50: *Fear not, only believe.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in this brief moment of prayer, wilt Thou answer our holiest desires with Thy divine inspiration.

We beseech Thee to speak unto us words of comfort and cheer for Thou knowest that our struggles with doubt and denial are, at times, so very deep and desperate.

Renew within us the faith which will make us courageous and faithful in all our duties and responsibilities.

Inspire us with the will to believe and, however dark and dim the future may be, help us always to keep our minds and hearts on the side of faith.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1958

Matthew 9: 29: *According to your faith be it unto you.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are approaching Thy throne of grace constrained by the wonder of Thy love and compelled by the urgency of our many needs.

We rejoice that Thou hast revealed Thyself unto us as our unfailing friend, our ever-present help, and our everlasting hope.

May we now sense Thy presence and find Thee here that we may find Thee everywhere.

Grant that, in the turmoil and tumult of our day we may have a clear vision of that blessed time when there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1958

Romans 8: 31: *If God be for us, who can be against us?*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou art the wise Holy One, the supreme source and answer to our deepest longings and loftiest aspirations.

We humbly acknowledge that the forces of evil, which are arrayed against us, are terrible but not too terrible for Thy divine righteousness and power.

Thou alone can'st lift our minds and hearts out of the darkest fears and lead us into the light and liberty of Thy presence and peace.

Inspire us with a greater faith in the coming of the golden age when weary and heavy laden humanity shall find their rest in Thee.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1958

Proverbs 29: 18: *Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in these days of tension and trial, of strain and struggle, of crisis and confusion, we are praying especially for our own beloved country.

We penitently confess that materialism, as a habit of life, seems at times to have a greater hold upon us than ever before.

Help us to see how appalling and inevitable our loss will be if we fail to be a republic whose God is the Lord.

Grant that the ideals and principles, the hopes and aspirations of our citizens may be more divine in character, lest we go down in darkness and defeat.

Show us how we may cast off and crucify everything that is alien to the spirit of our blessed Lord who made the doing of Thy will the supreme purpose and passion of His life.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1958

Luke 17: 5: *And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.*

ETERNAL GOD, who art always sensitive and responsive to every human appeal, we are coming unto Thee with our prayers of intercession for the needy.

We earnestly beseech Thee that we may not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for them.

Bless all whose very thoughts flow in sadness and who know the bitterness of want and carry heavy burdens, arising from the ills which make life so difficult.

Grant that those who walk in the shadow of doubt and despair, and whose sense of defeat often brings them to a standstill, may be inspired with a greater revelation and realization of Thy presence.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord, Who was moved with compassion when He saw the multitude and went about uttering words of sympathy and comfort and performing works of mercy. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1958

John 8: 12: *Jesus said unto them, I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we worship and adore Thee for Thou art the life of our lives, the light of our minds, and the love that fills our hearts.

We thank Thee for the manifestation which Thou hast made of Thyself as the strength of all that is good and the glory of all that is beautiful.

Thou art always drawing us to Thyself by the bonds of love which nothing can break, and seeking to lead us out of darkness into the blessedness of the larger and more abundant life.

Grant that daily we may be baptized with Thy Holy Spirit, giving us an awareness of Thy presence, an inflowing of Thy peace, and a new sense of Thy power.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1958

Joel 2: 3: *Turn unto the Lord, your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art acquainted with our many needs and able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask and hope for.

Thou knowest the question which frequently haunts us, the longings which make us lonely and pensive, and the problems for which we have no satisfactory solution.

We beseech Thee to search our souls, cleansing us of all that is sinful and unworthy, and inspiring us to reach out to loftier fields of endeavor.

Grant that we may open widely the door of our hearts to receive Thy divine strength and guidance as we struggle to perform our daily tasks, faithfully and well.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Master. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1958

I Samuel 12: 22: *It hath pleased the Lord to make you His people.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER AND FRIEND, our Companion and Counselor, humbly we invoke the blessings of Thy grace as we assemble in this Chamber to engage in the business of statecraft.

We earnestly beseech Thee that Thy Spirit may come nearer to us than we have ever known and reveal Thy truth more clearly than we have ever seen.

Penitently we confess that again and again we try to silence the persuasions and promptings of Thy Spirit, hardening our hearts against those divine demands which we know are imperative and righteous.

Inspire us with a faith that is vital and victorious and endue us with insight to see and courage to obey Thy holy will.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1958

Joshua 24: 15: *Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, at this noon hour we are again drawing nigh unto Thee in prayer, constrained by the wonder of Thy grace and compelled by the weariness of our need.

Thou art always sharing with us Thy divine strength and seeking to fortify us against the evil forces and influences which would undermine our character and corrupt our soul.

Grant that we may be more eager to hear and heed the words of wisdom and sympathy of our blessed Lord which He uttered with such simple majesty and appealing graciousness.

Inspire our hearts with calmness and courage and our minds with a new insight and a larger outlook as we face the tasks and responsibilities of this day.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1958

Job 22: 21: *Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, whose wisdom never errs and whose strength never fails, in these days of conflict and confusion, may we lay hold upon Thee with increasing tenacity of faith.

Grant that our longings and hopes for peace on earth and good will among men may soon come to fulfillment and fruition.

We penitently confess that we are so frequently without any clear vision of the spiritual values because we have allowed the windows of our souls to be made opaque by material ambitions.

May Thy blessings of insight and inspiration be given in an abundant measure to our President, our Speaker, and all who share in the responsibilities of administering the affairs of government.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1958

Ephesians 4: 25: *We are members one of another.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose presence there is fullness of joy, help us to appreciate what a sacred blessing it is to worship Thee, Who art our salvation, and strength, and the source of the true, the beautiful, and the good.

May we see the elemental and eternal truth that humanity is a family and that there is one heart in the world, having love, sympathy, and understanding as the ways to it.

Grant that, as all the members of the human family have a common nature, a common need, and a common destiny, so may they have that spiritual mindedness which seeks likenesses, not differences, and unites underlying diversities.

We earnestly beseech Thee for the coming of the day when justice and righteousness, mercy and truth, peace and good will, shall have the place of preeminence in the life of all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1958

Galatians 6: 10: *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are coming unto Thee in this moment of sacred communication, recognizing our divine and human relationships and our dependence upon Thee and upon one another.

We thank Thee for the many opportunities which Thou art daily giving unto us to be coworkers with Thee in building a better world.

Help us to be faithful partners in this divine ministry and may we have a deeper understanding of human brotherhood.

Grant that in the hours of each new day we may resolve and seek to do something that will make life less difficult for suffering and struggling humanity.

Hear us, in the name of our beloved Lord, who went about doing good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1958

Nahum 1: 7: *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the many material and spiritual blessings with which Thou art daily enriching and gladdening our lives.

May we never doubt Thy greatness and goodness but always look unto Thee with faith and confidence.

We humbly confess that in the hurry and rush of modern life we so frequently forget Thee and yield to worry and anxiety.

Grant that in the thought and toil of this day we may be strengthened and sustained by Thy divine grace.

Give us courage for hard circumstances, light when we go through dark valleys, and that peace which passeth all understanding.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1958

Psalm 40: 4: *Blessed is the man who maketh the Lord his trust.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we invoke the blessing of Thy grace and favor which we so greatly need.

We earnestly beseech Thee that we may cultivate a greater trust in Thee and in the power and possibilities of prayer.

Make us more devoutly and devotedly obedient to Thy counsel and Thy commands.

Grant that our Speaker and the Members of Congress may daily have the unmistakable guidance of Thy divine Spirit, making them equal to all their duties and responsibilities.

May we continue to strive for the advent of that blessed day when men and nations everywhere shall be at peace with Thee and with one another.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1958

Isaiah 40: 21: *He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, Thou art the light of the hearts that seek Thee, and the life of the souls that love Thee, and the strength of the minds that know Thee.

Grant that throughout this entire day we may walk in closest communion with Thee and receive that joy which comes from service.

May we be strengthened by Thy grace and always look up unto Thee, whence cometh our help, as we encounter hard tasks and heavy responsibilities.

Inspire us to be the messengers of comfort and cheer, eager to share with needy humanity the blessings which Thou dost bestow upon us so abundantly.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1958

Isaiah 55: 6: *Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we rejoice that Thou art found by all who truly seek Thee, known by those who love, and seen by all whose hearts are pure.

In this moment of prayer we are thanking Thee for Thy greatness and goodness, for in our weakness Thou are our strength and in our darkness Thou art our light.

To Thy loving kindness we are bringing all the nameless needs of our hearts, seeking the one thing needful and which Thou alone canst give, even Thyself, our joy and consolation, our hope and salvation.

Grant that daily we may be blessed with a more vivid sense of Thy nearness and a clearer vision of Thy grace which is sufficient for all our needs.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1958

James 1: 5: *If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, with confidence and joy, we invoke the blessings of Thy grace and favor, of wisdom and understanding.

Always and everywhere we need Thee; in our weakness to sustain us; in our strength to discipline us; in our despondency to encourage us; in our perplexities to give us vision and insight.

We humbly confess that our finite minds are frequently enslaved by a sense of futility and frustration and we feel unequal to our tasks and responsibilities.

May the spirit of our blessed Lord be our conscience and controlling influence as we seek to find the right solution to our many difficult problems.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1958

Matthew 20: 27: *Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we ask in all humility and sincerity to give us this day the wisdom and the courage to discharge faithfully our duties and responsibilities.

May we be glad and grateful for the many opportunities we daily have of serving Thee and our fellow men.

Help us to find our joy in giving our best to the high vocation of gaining for all mankind a better way of life.

Grant that in these days of great national and international problems we may have men and women of vision and devotion who serve for the common good and not for self.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord, who was the servant of all. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1958

Isaiah 35: 4: *Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong, fear not; thy God will save thee.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we are offering our prayer with a humble spirit and a contrite heart confessing our sins and shortcomings, and seeking Thy pardon and Thy peace.

Help us to understand more clearly and feel more deeply that in the woe and welter of world crisis and confusion. Thou alone canst calm our fears and forebodings and give us a sense of safety and security.

Grant that in these tragic and turbulent days Thy divine will and truth may be our law by day and our light by night.

Show us how we may remove all the barriers which divide nation from nation and bring them together in the spirit of friendship and fraternity.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1958

II Timothy 2: 7: *The Lord give thee understanding in all things.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art always near unto us with Thy heartwarming and encouraging presence when our days are filled with strain and stress.

May we go forth into the hours of this new day with eager and earnest minds, strongly fortified in faith.

Give us the grace and strength which redeems us from weakness and weariness and recharges us with renewed hope.

Take away the mists from our eyes and all malice from our hearts as we strive to gain for ourselves and mankind the vision and the blessings of the more abundant life.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1958

I John 4: 21: *This commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*

ETERNAL GOD, Who art the inspiration of our prayers and their answer, we beseech Thee to make our hearts the sanctuaries of Thy presence and Thy love.

Purge us from all selfish and unworthy desires and may a nobler and more magnanimous spirit always rule our thoughts and aspirations.

Give us that peace which is the fruit of righteousness and help us to cultivate that love which goes out to all mankind in friendship and brotherhood.

Grant that we may never feel that we are cherishing a forlorn hope and setting our minds on a vague impossibility when we continue to pray and labor for peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1958

Psalm 84: 11: *The Lord God is a sun and shield; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, in this moment of prayer, may we surrender ourselves to the guidance of Thy divine Spirit that our lives may be touched to nobler and finer issues.

Our needs are many but Thy grace is sufficient and Thy mercies outnumber all our necessities. Search us this day and cleanse us of all that is untrue and unholy.

Help us to understand more clearly that only when we bring our wills into accord with Thy will can we find freedom and courage, peace and power.

Grant that in these strange and troublous days the heart of humanity may be illumined with the spirit of love and inspired to read the meaning of life in terms of fellowship and service.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1958

I Peter 3: 12: *The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GREATNESS AND GOODNESS, we thank Thee for that memorable day in the calendar of our national history, called Independence Day, which we are soon to celebrate.

May our hearts expand with the spirit of pride and patriotism, of gratitude and renewed consecration, as we contemplate and reflect upon its sacred significance.

We are grateful for the faith and fortitude of our forefathers and all those heroes and patriots who fought so valiantly to make the dream of freedom a blessed reality.

Grant that our beloved country may be inspired and strengthened in its glorious mission of releasing the hidden splendor of humanity and leading all mankind into the radiant light of a new and better day.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1958

I Samuel 7: 12: *Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, hitherto we have dwelt in safety, under the canopy of Thy divine providence.

Daily Thou art supplying our many needs and fulfilling unto us Thy gracious promises.

Grant that our beloved country, conceived in sacrifice and dedicated to liberty, may be used mightily in finding the ways of freedom and peace.

May the freedom, which we are striving to gain and enjoy, always be coordinated with self-discipline.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1958

Job 5: 8: *Unto God would I commit my cause.*

ETERNAL GOD, who art the source of all our blessings, grant that daily we may commit ourselves and our way unto Thee.

Inspire us with a vivid sense of Thy presence and power as we face duties and responsibilities which are far beyond our own finite wisdom and strength.

We humbly confess that there are days when the ideals, which we cherish, seem so visionary and the outlook for a nobler civilization appears so gloomy.

May men and nations everywhere give their allegiance to the King of Kings, who rules not with the rod of iron but with the scepter of justice, righteousness, mercy, and love.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1958

I John 1: 5: *God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may we now be drawn together in greater unity of spirit as we plan and labor for the welfare of our country and all mankind.

Strengthen and sustain us with Thy counsel and companionship and a vision of Thy divine purposes which can never be eclipsed by the forces of evil.

Grant that in the midst of worldwide conflict and confusion we may cleave with increasing tenacity of faith and courage to the abiding truth that nothing can ever impede the progress and triumph of the kingdom of righteousness.

Help us to strive more earnestly for the dawning of that blessed day when the spirit of man shall be lifted out of the darkness of hatred and selfishness into the glorious light of love and brotherhood.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1958

Psalm 25: 4: *Show me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that we may never doubt Thy divine sovereignty and control over the affairs and destinies of men and of nations.

May we have the courage and faith to believe that Thou are working in and through the confusion and chaos of the times.

Inspire us with a greater sense of our individual responsibility in building a finer social order.

Help us to have a clear vision of that day when Thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1958

Amos 5: 24: *Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we are again assembling in this Chamber, as colleagues and coworkers, engaged in a high and holy mission.

We are conscious of daily facing tremendous tasks and responsibilities which are far beyond our finite wisdom and strength.

One in our need and longing, we are humbly beseeching Thee that we may have the sustaining presence and the guiding light of Thy divine Spirit.

Grant that we may be calm and courageous as we find ourselves challenged by a difficult international situation.

May we go forth unafraid, assured that as our days, so also will be our strength.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1958

Psalm 91: 2: *I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are turning unto Thee in prayer for Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

We beseech Thee to gird us, in these perilous days, with that wisdom which never errs, that love which never forsakes, and that strength which never fails.

Kindle within the hearts of the peace-loving nations the spirit of brotherhood that in times of suffering and tribulation we may all minister unto one another's needs.

Show us how we may bring to fulfillment and fruition those noble impulses of good will and friendship which Thou has planted within the soul of man.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1958

I John 4: 18: *Perfect love casteth out fear.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose mercies we are spared and by whose power we are sustained, grant that daily we may commit ourselves to Thy never-failing providence.

Inspire and gird us with those capacities and abilities which will enable us to discharge our tasks and responsibilities diligently and devotedly.

Help us to walk the way of life and of duty with a firm step which nothing can impede and a courage of heart which knows no fear and a splendor of faith which can never be eclipsed by doubt and despair.

Give us the blessed assurance that a day is dawning when the evil and sinister forces of aggression, which are breaking the heart of humanity and blaspheming Thy holy name, shall be supplanted by truth and righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 21, 1958

II Corinthians 4: 8: *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who art always willing and ready to reveal Thyself unto the humble spirit and the contrite heart, inspire us in these days of crisis and emergency to put our trust in Thy divine providence.

We pray that great wisdom and understanding may be given to the United Nations and the councils and conferences which are seeking to promote the spirit of amity and concord among the people of the earth.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, the Members of Congress, and all our statesmen and soldiers may be filled with an indomitable faith and courage as they strive to establish peace and righteousness.

May every citizen, the least as well as the greatest, the weakest as well as the strongest, have a share in strengthening and maintaining the morale of freedom-loving nations everywhere.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1958

Hebrews 13: 6: *The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may this moment of prayer inspire us with a new awareness of our spiritual resources.

Show us how we may lift and lessen the burdens and fears which weigh so heavily on many members of the human family.

Grant that we may be the messengers and mediators of hope and helpfulness in solving difficult national and international problems.

We pray that all who hold positions of leadership in the affairs of government may be the honored servants of the Lord in guiding our Nation and all mankind in the ways of righteousness.

May the legislation that we are seeking to propose and enact here redound to Thy glory and the welfare of humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1958

Romans 15: 1: *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we are daily praying that the soul of men and nations may be touched and transformed by the spirit of brotherhood and good will.

Inspire us to dedicate all our capabilities and capacities to the supreme task of building a civilization ruled by the principles and ideals of the Prince of Peace.

Show us how we may extend and widen the horizon of our sympathy and understanding.

Grant that we may seek to belong to that glorious succession of men and women who have not lived for self and personal advantage.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who went about doing good. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1958

Psalm 37: 25: *I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we have entered upon this new day assured that Thou wilt not withhold from us any needed blessing if we walk uprightly.

We beseech Thee to mediate unto us that divine wisdom which will enable us to see our duties more clearly, understand them more wisely, and discharge them more faithfully.

Help us to fully realize that for calmness and courage, for faith and fortitude in these times of crisis, we need the strengthening and sustaining ministry of Thy Spirit.

Grant that in our prayers we may remember more frequently and fervently all who, in the council of nations, are striving to make the principles of righteousness and justice regnant in the life of the world.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1958

II Thessalonians 3: 3: *The Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from evil.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast revealed Thyself as a strength to sustain and a light to lead, may this new day be rich in the realization of Thy nearness.

Endow us with a faith which will make us victorious over all the dark and disquieting moods which so frequently beset and baffle us.

Help us to interpret our longings and labors for universal peace; not as an idle dream or a forlorn hope, but as a glorious divine inspiration.

Show us how we may bring about a closer fellowship and a better understanding between all the members of the human family. May we see how much we have in common and how much we can do to minister to one another's welfare and happiness.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1958

Galatians 3: 11: *The just shall live by faith.*

O THOU INFINITE AND INFALLIBLE GOD, may we come to the tasks of this new day with minds and hearts that are receptive and responsive to the guidance of Thy divine Spirit.

Inspire us with the assurance of Thy grace and wisdom as we strive to find the ways to universal peace and brotherhood.

Grant that we may authenticate the glory and grandeur of our democracy by our labor and longings to minister to the needs of all mankind.

Strengthen and sustain our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress in their deep concern for the honor and security of our beloved country.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1958

Psalm 34: 4: *I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, whose grace and goodness follow all our days, bless the Members of Congress as they again come to the sacrament of public service.

Grant that all our leaders in the affairs of government may be distinguished by that righteousness of character and conduct which exalts a nation.

We humbly acknowledge that it is becoming increasingly clear that we cannot meet and master our problems unless Thou dost illumine and direct us by Thy Spirit.

May each new day be prophetic of a radiant tomorrow as we strive together in the great moral and spiritual enterprise of achieving blessedness for all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1958

Isaiah 43: 5: *Fear not, for I am with thee.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we beseech Thee to be patient and favorable unto these Thy servants.

Give them grace to discharge their duties and responsibilities with a pure and steadfast devotion.

In all humility we are asking Thee to gird us with a faith which never fails and a courage that never falters.

May Thy righteous will have the place of preeminence in all our plans and purposes, our deliberations and decisions.

Temper our minds with patience and perseverance, and with a deep sympathy and concern for all who are seeking the blessings of the more abundant life.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1958

Psalm 34: 3: *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art our help in each new day and our hope for every unknown tomorrow.

We humbly confess that to turn away from Thee is to fall but to abide in Thee is to stand fast forever.

May Thy truth be our shield and Thy presence our strength as we daily seek to walk in the way of Thy wise and holy commandments.

Inspire men and nations everywhere with a greater loyalty and devotion to the ideals and principles which Thou hast ordained for the peace and prosperity of the world.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1958

Ecclesiastes 8: 12: *It shall be well with them that fear God.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we worship and adore Thee as the source of our well-being, the light of all that is true, the strength of all that is good, and the glory of all that is beautiful.

We beseech Thee to bless our minds with a reassuring vision of Thy gracious and beneficent purposes and our hearts with a splendor of faith and courage which nothing can ever eclipse or extinguish.

Grant that the principles of justice and righteousness, of friendship and brotherhood may be the foundation stones on which we are seeking to build an enduring civilization.

May our President, our Speaker, and our chosen Representatives be inspired with moral and spiritual power as they respond to the arduous task of leading mankind into the brightness and blessedness of a better day.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1958

Proverbs 3: 6: *In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in this moment of prayer and meditation may our spirits be brought into harmony with Thy Spirit.

May it be the central and controlling thought of our minds to unite our desires and aspirations with Thy divine will for our wills are ours to make them Thine.

Grant that we may seek and sense Thy counsel and may none of the legislation that we are enacting run counter to that which is right and reasonable.

Show us how, in these perilous days, we may sustain and strengthen our Republic and find the secret of the cohesive and conquering power.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1958

Psalm 1: 1–2: *Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we beseech Thee to inspire the Members of Congress with a vision of Thy righteous purposes as they daily take counsel together in the affairs of government.

Endow them with a courage to believe that the perplexing problems, which they are struggling with, are not beyond the reach of Thy divine wisdom.

Grant that our minds may be illumined and guided by the revelations and commandments of Thy Holy Word.

May our lives be radiant with a sense of Thy presence, grateful with an appreciation of Thy goodness and joyous with an assurance of Thy love and care.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1958

Romans 8: 14: *For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

O THOU PRAYER-HEARING AND PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD, may this moment of worship be for each of us a time of renewed consecration to that which is good and true.

Grant unto us an uncompromising attitude toward everything that is wrong and ignoble and may we never break faith with Thee and our better self.

Help us to meet our daily tasks and responsibilities with moral and spiritual stamina and with a resolute and an unfaltering faith.

May this new day register a large measure of achievement in building a social order in which there is more of peace and good will among men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1958

Jeremiah 32: 42: *Thus saith the Lord: I will bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY, may we daily be men and women of vision and of valor.

Help us to meet courageously the challenge of difficult problems and heavy responsibilities.

We humbly confess that we are frequently tempted to surrender to moods of futility and frustration.

May we count it our highest wisdom to commit our baffled minds and burdened hearts to the discipline and leading of Thy Spirit.

We thank Thee for the life and character of our beloved and esteemed colleague who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Bestow upon the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1958

I Samuel 16: 7: *The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may our minds and hearts be touched by the spirit of the lowly Man of Galilee and be transformed into His glorious likeness.

May we be numbered among those who, in these troubled times, are orienting their lives to His ideals and principles.

Grant that men everywhere may seek to prove worthy of one another's confidence.

We earnestly beseech Thee that the United Nations may have a clear and commanding vision of the high and helpful things that they may do together for the peace of the world.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1958

I Thessalonians 3: 12: *The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again coming unto Thee in prayer, compelled by our many needs and constrained by Thy divine love.

We earnestly beseech Thee to bless the representatives of the united and freedom-loving nations as they take counsel together.

Inspire them with the assurance that the Prince of Peace is with them as they continue to affirm and champion courageously whatsoever things are just and true.

Grant that feelings of friendship and fraternity may permeate and become more potent in the thoughts and aspirations of all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1958

Psalm 91: 15: *He shall call upon me, and I will answer Him; I will be with Him in trouble; I will deliver Him, and honor Him.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we worship and wait upon Thee for Thou are our help in the labors and our hope in the longings of each new day.

We rejoice that daily Thy spirit of truth and righteousness is seeking to make its way into the minds and hearts of men to touch them to finer and nobler issues.

May Thy love be our strength and inspiration as we give ourselves to the arduous task of building a better world.

Grant that regardless of misgivings and disappointments we may continue to believe with increasing tenacity of faith that a day is dawning when peace and good will shall be established on earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1958

Joshua 1: 9: *Be strong and of good courage; for the Lord Thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

O THOU WHO ART OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, we humbly acknowledge that always and everywhere we need Thy divine counsel and companionship.

Help us to feel how absolutely dependent we are upon Thee in these perilous days when our pilgrimage is beset by many hardships and difficulties.

Grant that we may be strong and of good courage as we seek to maintain our freedom and extend its frontiers to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Inspire us with the great spiritual affirmation and assurance that Thou art our God forever and ever and will be our guide even unto death.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1958

Deuteronomy 5: 33: *Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live and that it may be well with you.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art daily bidding us to walk in the ways of Thy commandments, to love Thee and love our fellow men.

Grant that the legislative programs, which the Congress is seeking to enact, may redound to Thy glory and bring a larger measure of prosperity and happiness to our country and all mankind.

We beseech Thee that every law on our statute books may be an expression of Thy wise and holy will and of our longing to build a better world.

May we stand in the noble succession of all who, in every generation, have labored for the coming of the day of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1958

I Chronicles 22: 12: *Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we again assemble to confer and consult with one another, may we have a clear vision of Thy will and a deep concern for the good of all mankind.

We pray that in our plans and purposes we may give evidence that we are partners rather than partisans.

Grant that we may never try to escape the imperatives of our own personal responsibility as we face the crucial issues of our time.

Inspire us to affirm and apply those principles of justice and righteousness which must be paramount in all our longings and labors to build the temple of world peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1958

I Kings 22: 43: *He turned not aside from doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS, we are pausing at this noon hour to turn our minds and hearts unto Thee in praise and petition.

May we now give ourselves in dedication and devotion to Thy holy will for this is the only return we can make for the many manifestations of Thy bountiful providence.

Grant that in these days of world crisis and confusion we may have the grace to pray even for our enemies who, in their blindness and brutality, are filling human life with so much fear and foreboding.

Show us how we may have a larger part in lifting men and nations into that higher spiritual unity where all antipathies and antagonisms are supplanted by friendship and fraternity.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1958

Jude 25: *To the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, we are again humbly uniting our minds and hearts in the fellowship of prayer to worship and adore Thy great and holy name.

We pray that Thou wilt bestow the benediction of Thy peace and the diadem of Thy praise upon our President, our Speaker, the chosen Representatives of our Republic, and all who have served during this 85th Congress in whatever capacity.

May we have within our hearts the joyous testimony that we have sought to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation with a pure and steadfast devotion.

Grant that we may leave this Chamber, commending and committing one another to Thy love and care and with the assurance that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt also provide.

May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; may the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

First Session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1959

Genesis 1: 1: *In the beginning, God.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in whose divine keeping and control are the coming in and the going out of all our days and years, we desire to begin, to continue, and to end this 86th Congress with Thee.

We worship and adore Thee as the supreme source and inspiration of faith and fortitude, of wisdom and understanding, and the guiding intelligence in the life of men and of nations.

Grant that on this solemn and sacred day, in the calendar of our Republic, all our citizens may invoke the blessings of Thy grace and favor upon our chosen representatives who have assembled in this Chamber to take the oath of office and the pledge of loyalty and service.

Hear us as we unite in offering unto Thee the prayer of the Prince of Peace:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1959

II Samuel 22: 4: *I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who are nearest when we need Thee most in these moments of prayer, may we be blessed with insight and inspiration as we seek to discharge faithfully the duties of our high vocation.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body may be used by Thee in lifting and lessening the burdens and sorrows and fears which weigh so heavily on many members of the human family.

May we strive earnestly to be the messengers and mediators of hopefulness and helpfulness in bringing in that glorious day when the forces of evil shall be supplanted by the gracious and gentle spirit of the lowly Man of Galilee.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1959

Exodus 33: 14: *The Lord said, My presence shall go with Thee, and I will give Thee rest.*

ETERNAL GOD, whose presence is our help and our hope, may we daily hear and heed Thy voice of companionship and counsel.

Grant that our faith may never be eclipsed by doubt or extinguished by despair as we seek to find the right solution to our many national and international problems.

Wilt Thou inspire men and nations everywhere with those nobler thoughts and feelings which are the progenitors of achievement in the building of a better world.

In Christ's name we bring our petition. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1959

Leviticus 26: 12: *The Lord said, "I will walk among you and will be your God, and ye shall be my people."*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, grant that daily we may have a vivid and vital sense of Thy divine spirit, walking with us and working through us.

Always and everywhere we need Thee; in our weakness to sustain us; in our strength to discipline us; in our sorrows to comfort us.

May we be men and women of vision and of valor, richly endowed with clear minds and courageous hearts to meet and master the challenge of arduous tasks and heavy responsibilities.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1959

Mark 9: 27: *With God all things are possible.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, Thou art willing and able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

Inspire us to believe that none of the Christlike longings which Thou hast planted within our souls are too lofty to be fulfilled by Thy divine wisdom and power.

Enlarge and expand our minds and hearts with a faith that defies despair and a love that casts out fear.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1959

Psalms 84: 12: *O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.*

O THOU GREAT GOD OF ALL OUR DAYS AND YEARS, may our minds and hearts turn continually unto Thee in faith and obedience.

Grant that, in our plans and purposes, our deliberations and decisions we may have the guidance of Thy spirit.

Inspire us to give ourselves more earnestly and eagerly to the great task of establishing Thy kingdom of righteousness and peace upon the earth.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1959

Isaiah 12: 2: *The Lord Jehovah is my strength, my song, and my salvation.*

INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, as we continue to address ourselves to the responsibilities of this new day, may we be blessed with the spirit of wholehearted devotion.

Expand and enlarge our feelings of concern and considerateness for Thy needy children who are hungry and homeless and hopeless.

Daily may we gird ourselves with courage and confidence as we seek to build a world fellowship ruled by the ideals and principles of the lowly man of Galilee.

We thank Thee for the life and ministry of our colleague whom Thou hast called unto Thyself to dwell with Thee in eternal blessedness. Grant unto the members of his family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1959

Psalm 19: 14: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*

O THOU WHO ART THE COUNSELOR OF OUR MINDS and the companion of our souls, we rejoice that daily we may bring our aspirations and desires, our longings and hopes to Thy listening ear and understanding heart.

We pray that we may know Thee more intimately and surrender ourselves unto Thee more completely for Thou art our light in darkness and our strength in times of weakness.

Show us how we may be helpful in releasing the hidden splendor of humanity and in bringing unto all mankind the blessings of the more abundant life.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1959

Matthew 8: 26: *Jesus said unto them, why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE, we are again coming unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, seeking together those needed blessings which none can ever find or enjoy alone.

We humbly and earnestly beseech Thee to emancipate us from those fears which so frequently ensalve us with a sense of futility and frustration.

Bless us with a larger measure of faith and enable us to lay hold upon Thy glorious promise that they who wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1959

Joshua 1: 9: *The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, help us in this moment of prayer to gain a vital and vivid sense of Thy guiding and sustaining presence.

Grant that our minds and hearts may be inspired with a more filial trust in Thee and a more fraternal attitude toward all the members of the human family.

Give us the glad assurance that there is a supreme spiritual power in the universe working for justice and peace and righteousness, however feeble and frail our own finite efforts may be.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1959

I Samuel 12: 24: *Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, whose divine providence supplies all our needs, we thank Thee for Thy continuing care and goodness.

Help us to appreciate the many opportunities we have of daily working with Thee and our fellow men in establishing those eternal verities and virtues which Thou hast ordained for the peace of the world.

May we be eager to join hearts and hands with men of every nation who are striving to lead groping humanity out of darkness and confusion into the light and glory of a better day.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1959

Jeremiah 33: 2–3: *Thus saith the Lord, call unto Me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the inspiration of our loftiest aspirations, may we determine to bring them to fulfillment and fruition.

Grant that the ideals and principles of the lowly Man of Galilee may have the place of preeminence in all our national and international affairs.

Enlarge our faith; guide us by Thy divine counsel; give us those desires which Thou dost delight to satisfy; establish within us those loyalties and integrities which cannot be shaken.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1959

II Timothy 2: 15: *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may these 40 days of the Lenten season upon which we have entered daily become richer and more glorious in the culture and deepening of our spiritual life.

Cleanse our souls of all unrighteousness as we give ourselves to meditation and quiet waiting upon Thee in the spirit of contrition and confession, of penitence and humility.

Grant that by the exercise of self-examination and self-discipline our minds and hearts may gain the mastery over every insurgent impulse, every inordinate desire, and every self-indulgent habit.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1959

Judges 18: 5: *Ask counsel of God, that we may know whether our way, which we go, shall be prosperous.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who art always seeking to draw us within the compass and circuit of Thy divine fellowship, grant that we may be eager to accept and acclaim the overtures of Thy friendship and love.

We acknowledge humbly that we greatly need Thy counsel and companionship in order that we may be equal to all the tasks and responsibilities which are far beyond our finite wisdom and strength.

Inspire our souls to lay hold confidently and courageously of those principles of truth and righteousness, good will and brotherhood which Thou hast ordained for the building of a nobler civilization.

May glory and majesty, dominion, and power, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be Thine forever and ever. Amen.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS IN THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 648, 85TH CONGRESS, COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

INVOCATION

I Corinthians 13: 13: *And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we have assembled here to pay tribute to the life and character of a great American patriot who stood like a giant among his contemporaries and whose record of heroic service has made an indelible impression upon succeeding generations.

We rejoice that he always kept the windows of his soul open toward the unseen and eternal, whence came his insight and inspiration, his faith and fortitude, his humility and charity.

Grant that his indomitable passion for the preservation of the Union may also inspire our longing to promote and preserve the union and concord of God-fearing men and nations in their search and struggle for peace and freedom.

May our beloved country continue to pray and labor to bring to fulfillment and fruition that blessed day when all the members of the human family shall walk and work together in friendship and fraternity.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1959

Galatians 6: 2: *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we beseech Thee in this Brotherhood Week to inspire us with a clear vision of the many high and helpful things that we are privileged to do together for the welfare of one another and all mankind.

Grant that, in none of life's human relationships, we may allow those feelings and attitudes to permeate our character and conduct which are alien and contrary to the spirit of our blessed Lord.

May we be loyal partners with all who are dedicating themselves to the glorious and adventurous task of establishing a social order in which the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man are the ruling principles.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1959

Romans 15: 1: *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we be truly grateful for the hours of this new day affording us the opportunity and privilege of having some part in solving the world's many difficult problems.

We pray that Thou wilt inspire our finite and faltering minds and hearts with Thy divine spirit which alone can deliver us from all doubts and fears.

Show us how in this Brotherhood Week we may strengthen the bonds of understanding and good will between the nations of the earth and all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1959

Hosea 14: 9: *The ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them.*

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, grant that during these days of Brotherhood Week, we may highly resolve to covet and cultivate more earnestly Thy ways of consideration and compassion toward all the needy members of the human family.

Make us eager to extend the hand of helpfulness to the weary and heavy laden and speak the word of hope to the sorrowing and lonely which will enable them to carry on with faith and courage.

May we daily pursue the journey of life with gladness, daring to believe in a glorious future when men everywhere shall live together as brothers on the high levels of peace and good will.

We thank Thee for the life and ministry of Thy servant, our beloved colleague, who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us, in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1959

II Kings 5: 1: *He also was a mighty man in valour.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we have assembled here to commemorate the birthday of George Washington whom we reverently and affectionately call the Father of His Country.

Our minds and hearts expand with gratitude and pride when we think of his spirit of adventure, his fortitude in times of hardship, and his fidelity to the principles of righteousness and justice which inspired him to champion the cause of the oppressed Colonists.

We thank Thee above all for his forcible spirit and devout faith which sent him down on his knees in prayer in order that he might know how to march in step with the eternal will and wisdom of God.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1959

Isaiah 61: 10: *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God.*

O THOU GRACIOUS SPIRIT OF THE INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee for our moments of prayer in the midst of days that are strange and strenuous and at times so very dark and dismal.

We humbly confess that feelings of fear and frustration frequently invade and infiltrate the sanctuary of our souls, causing us to live negatively and hopelessly.

Grant that the assurance of the righteousness and justice of God may strengthen and sustain us as we encounter difficult domestic and foreign problems.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1959

Ecclesiastes 8: 12: *I know that it shall be well with them that fear God.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who art the gracious benefactor of all mankind, we beseech Thee to impart unto us that divine wisdom and strength which will enable us to see our duties and responsibilities more clearly, understand them more wisely, and perform them more faithfully.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body may be blessed with clear minds and courageous hearts, making them equal to the desperate needs of our day and generation.

Bless our beloved country and all the nations with whom we are united in the great task of defending the sacred heritage of freedom and in maintaining the peace of the world.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1959

Amos 5: 24: *Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.*

O THOU GREAT GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, may our minds and hearts daily turn instinctively unto Thee to learn what Thou dost will and command.

We pray that the strifes and divisions which exist among the nations of the earth may soon come to an end and that men everywhere may be united in the bonds of a strong and abiding fellowship.

Grant that the blessings of Thy grace and favor may continue to rest upon the citizens of our beloved country as we pursue the ways which make for peace and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1959

I Samuel 7: 12: *Hitherto hath the Lord blessed us.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, we adore Thee as our gracious Benefactor whose divine providence is ever round about us.

We acknowledge gratefully that in our physical and spiritual needs Thou hast been mindful and merciful unto us.

May we manifest our gratitude by following more eagerly and earnestly the way which our blessed Lord has marked out for us by His example and precepts.

Grant that we may always perceive clearly what He would have us know and perform faithfully that which He would have us do.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1959

Psalm 145: 3: *Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.*

O THOU WHO ART THE CREATOR AND SOURCE OF LIFE AND LIGHT, we thank Thee for the many beautiful and marvelous revelations of Thy grace and goodness which we are witnessing in the world of nature during this glorious Spring season.

May the mysteries and splendor of the great out of doors, upon which we again look, awaken within us a sense of wonder and a lofty aspiration for greater beauty of character and conduct.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord whom poets and prophets have called the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star, the Fairest Among Ten Thousand. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1959

Psalm 118:24: *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

O THOU WHO HAST BLESSED US with the gift of a new day, may there be nothing in this day's work of which we shall be ashamed, when the sun has set nor at the eventide of our life when Thou shalt call us to Thyself.

Establish within us those loyalties and integrities which cannot be shaken but will be our support in our times of temptation and trial.

May the strength and splendor of our faith in Thee be made manifest as we daily strive to discharge those tasks and responsibilities which Thou hast committed unto us.

Fill us with a deep longing to have a larger part in opening for men and nations everywhere the gateway to the more abundant life.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1959

Romans 14:19: *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.*

ETERNAL GOD, inspire us in this moment of prayer with a wholehearted desire to meet and discharge faithfully the duties and demands of our high vocation.

Grant that we may define and interpret the meaning and significance of our life in terms of the service that we are rendering to establish the kingdom of righteousness on the earth.

May our minds and hearts be filled with glorious hopes and longings for the coming of that day when all men and nations shall seek and follow those ways which make for peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1959

Joel 2:21: *Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice; for the Lord will do great things.*

O THOU WHOSE PRESENCE IS OUR SHIELD in the stillness of the night and our strength in the struggles of each new day, help us to feel and appreciate more fully how wonderful it is that daily we may enter into communion and counsel with the God of all grace and goodness.

Inspire us with a faith that never wavers and a courage that never falters as we seek to fulfill the high and holy mission which Thou hast entrusted unto us.

Grant that we may authenticate the glory and grandeur of the ideals and principles of democracy by incarnating them more completely in our own personal life.

May we accept its declarations and demands and strive to make them regnant in all the various spheres of human relationships.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1959

Psalm 33:12: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in these days of crises and confusion, may we have a faith that is calm and courageous, a hope that is invulnerable and invincible and a love that never fails nor falters.

We humbly acknowledge that our plans and purposes, our efforts and endeavors for a nobler civilization will be futile and fruitless unless Thou dost gird us with Try divine wisdom and strength.

May our President, our Speaker, and our chosen Representatives be used by Thee in promoting the cohesive spirit of understanding and good will among all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1959

II Corinthians 4:8: *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.*

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, inspire us during this day with a vivid assurance of Thy divine guidance in our search and struggles to find the right solution to life's varied and difficult problems.

Grant that through the discipline of hard experiences and trying circumstances we may learn the needed lessons of patience and perseverance.

May we never yield to moods of defeatism and despair and allow our energies and resources to be weakened and dissipated by fears and anxieties.

Give us the unfaltering confidence that there is a moral and spiritual power in the universe which is working for righteousness and justice, however seemingly frail and feeble our own human efforts and achievements.

Hear us through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1959

Galatians 6: 10: *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.*

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, grant that the memory of their faith and fortitude may inspire us to serve our day and generation in accordance with the dictates of Thy divine will.

We humbly acknowledge that our beloved country is beset by many social and economic dislocations which greatly disturb our national welfare.

May we be endowed with the grace of insight and the gifts of wisdom and understanding as we direct our thoughts and dedicate our energies of body and mind to the difficult task of building a nobler civilization.

Make us eager to join heart and hands with all who are daily praying and laboring for the coming of that blessed time when the members of the human family shall walk together the highway of peace and brotherly kindness.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Master who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1959

Philippians 4: 6: *Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, Thou art the light of all that is true, the glory of all that is beautiful, and the inspiration of all that is good.

We penitently confess that so frequently we allow ourselves to become troubled in spirit, depressed, and apprehensive.

Grant that we may be emancipated from all anxious and rebellious tempers of mind and heart and be delivered from those errors which blind, those doubts which darken, and the fears which weaken us.

Quicken our souls with a new hope and fill them with the glad assurance that Thou art always willing and ready to give Thyself unto us according to our needs.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1959

Galatians 5: 14: *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in whom we find that perfect love which casteth out all fear, inspire us in this sacred moment of prayer with a new sense of the joy and blessedness of Thy divine love.

May the hearts of men and nations everywhere be welded and united into that kind of love which will make them eager to seek one another's welfare.

We earnestly beseech Thee to forgive and take away those hatreds and envies, those suspicious and misunderstandings, which are keeping the members of the human family asunder.

Help us to cultivate and exemplify a more magnanimous spirit, and may we have such a love of Thy truth that we shall come to experience more vividly the truth of Thy love.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1959

Jeremiah 32: 17: *Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and there is nothing too hard for Thee.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose thoughts concerning us are those of love and of peace, grant that daily we may sense Thy presence with us and surrender ourselves to the sovereignty of Thy wise and holy will.

We earnestly beseech Thee to kindle within us a flame of wholehearted devotion and a faith that has the courage to follow the ways which Thou hast marked out for us.

Gird us with power to gain the victory over those subtle forces which are continually seeking to undermine our character and tempting us to betray our nobler and better self.

May the light of Thy countenance shine upon all whose lives are beshadowed by fear and foreboding and give unto their faltering spirits the assurance that Thou canst enable them to carry on victoriously and joyously.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1959

Psalm 145:18: *The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we are again assembled in this Chamber, grateful for the manifold manifestation of Thy might and Thy mercy.

May the kind and gentle Spirit of our blessed Lord possess and permeate our souls more completely, making them fragrant with Thy grace and fruitful in service for needy humanity.

We beseech Thee to illumine our minds with a clearer vision and a deeper experience of Thyself, for Thou alone art the source of the true, the good, and the beautiful and the only hope for peace and goodwill in a discordant and distracted world.

Grant that all the barriers of rancor among the nations and the prejudice and bigotry, which blind the heart of mankind to brotherhood, may be taken away.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1959

Isaiah 32: 17: *The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.*

O THOU WHO ART OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR and the satisfaction of our deepest longings, we thank Thee for the noble impulse which daily turns us to Thee in prayer for the wisdom and guidance we so greatly need.

We penitently confess that we frequently blunder blindly on, forgetting Thee and following our own desires rather than the ways of blessedness and righteousness which Thou hast marked out for us.

Grant that we may use wisely and faithfully every appointed hour of the new day and if there is any good we can do, may we not neglect or defer it for we pass this way but once.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1959

Proverbs 3: 6: *In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whom we find the light that reveals unto us the eternal truth and the grace that renews our strength, grant that our minds and hearts may now be brought under the sovereignty of Thy wise and holy will.

Inspire us to make Thy will our own, not in sullen submission but gladly and gratefully, for in following and doing Thy will is our peace.

Help us to give ourselves unto Thee completely but what have we that Thou dost need and desire and what can we render unto Thee that is not already Thine own?

May we daily grow in the faith by which Thou art known and the fidelity by which our inner life is made a sanctuary of Thy presence and peace.

Hear us through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1959

Lamentations 3: 40: *Let us search and try our ways and turn again to the Lord.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who art the inspiration of every noble longing, we are turning to Thee in prayer, for daily we are sorely vexed by problems which our finite wisdom cannot solve and by questions for which we have no satisfactory answer.

We humbly confess that again and again darkness broods upon our hearts and our minds are overwhelmed by doubts and there seems to be no hope for better things.

Grant that we may place our trembling hands in Thine for Thou dost understand, and by the guidance of Thy divine spirit we shall be led out into the clear light of day and find the way to joy and peace.

Help us to believe that Thy gracious and beneficent purposes are beyond defeat for Thy faithfulness abides forever and nothing can separate us from Thy love.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1959

Luke 17: 5: *Lord, increase our faith.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, Thou has revealed Thyself in the wonders and splendor of the world of nature, and now we would turn our thoughts to Thee in praise and adoration.

Grant that Thy spirit, which is filling the earth with so much loveliness, may breathe upon us its quickening and regenerating power that our lives shall bud and bloom into the beauty and strength of the more abundant life.

Help us to appreciate more fully that Thou art always ready to give Thyself unto us according to our need and to lead us in our quest for that nobler and higher self which we have not yet attained.

We beseech Thee to deliver us from those fears that cause us to stand trembling in weakness into that joyous faith which inspires us to walk with courage and hope.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1959

Philippians 3: 13, 14: *This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that the vision of our blessed Lord, whose beauty and winsomeness of character and conduct allure and attract us, may never fade from our minds and hearts.

We humbly and gratefully acknowledge that at times we find ourselves earnestly endeavoring to evaluate the spirit of that lowly Man of Galilee into whose likeness Thou would have us grow.

Show us how we may apply and act upon His principles and ideals and inspire us to follow in His ways of faith and courage as we seek to minister unto the vast multitude of mankind in their struggles and sorrows.

Hear us in the name of Him who walked the road of the loving heart. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1959

Romans 15:33: *Now the God of peace be with you all.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, we are earnestly beseeching Thee to bless our President, our Speaker, and the Members of this legislative body as they daily seek to administer wisely the political and civic affairs of our beloved country.

Wilt Thou control and take charge of our plans and purposes, bringing them into harmony and homage to Thy holy will.

Grant that we may be men and women of integrity and fidelity, counting it our supreme joy to merit Thy favor and to render a service that will redound to the welfare of our Republic, and all mankind.

May the hardships and adversities, which we encounter, never lead us to doubt and despair but discipline us to lay hold of our tasks with perseverance and a more wholehearted devotion.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1959

Ephesians 5: 1–2: *Be ye therefore followers of God, and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that we may be abundantly equal to the duties and tasks of this new day, confronting them with a sense of power that exceeds our sense of difficulty.

Deliver us from the anxieties and worries which consume our strength and mar our peace. May we remain calm and courageous in the contemplation of Thy divine grace and love.

Show us how the lofty ambitions and aspirations, which animate us and which we cherish, may be brought to fulfillment and fruition.

We are daily praying that the spirit of peace and good will may have an ever-widening dominion, removing the things that engender strife and strengthening the bonds of friendship among all the nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1959

Psalm 62: 8: *Trust in Him at all times.*

ETERNAL GOD, who art always manifesting Thy grace and mercy unto us, may we be truly grateful for our many material and spiritual blessings.

Help us to covet and cultivate more eagerly those longings and aspirations which Thou dost delight to satisfy.

May all who are guiding the Ship of State embody and exemplify that noble kind of patriotism which seeks, in personal character and public service, to preserve and perpetuate the good name of our beloved country.

Inspire us to labor faithfully and pray fervently for the coming of that better day when men everywhere shall be brought into a right relationship with Thee and their fellow men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1959

I Samuel 4: 9: *Be strong and quit yourselves like men.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, the goal and guide of our noblest aspirations and desires, we bow before Thee in wonder and worship, for Thy gracious providence is ever round about us.

Grant that in times of anxiety and affliction we may possess the patience and perserverance of God-fearing men and women who believe that all things are working together for good to those who love Thee.

In these days of uncertainty and insecurity, may we never mimimize the might and resources of our enemies, but keep us watchful and alert and, above all, may we magnify and avail ourselves of Thy divine power, for if God be for us, who can be against us.

Show us how we may anchor our hearts to Thee when we are tempest tossed and may Thy peace enable us to remain steadfast as we labor and wait for the dawning of that better and brighter day.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1959

Joshua 24: 14: *Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who has created us in Thine own image and called us to walk with Thee, in this moment of prayer, we are not asking for tasks more suited to our strength but for strength that will make us equal to them.

We are coming unto Thee, with hearts full of praise but also with penitence for we are haunted by the memory of duties neglected, of deeds of kindness left unperformed and of lofty impulses unheeded. Give us now that peace which comes from pardon.

Grant that when we are beset by stern conflicts and seem to be the victims of a conspiracy of wicked circumstances we may have a vivid sense of Thy presence and companionship by which alone we can be victorious.

May we never shun or shirk any responsibility or fall below the measure of the manhood and womanhood of those, who in days gone by, feared life so little because they feared God so much.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1959

Romans 12: 9: *Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

O THOU WHO HAST SPOKEN UNTO US through Thy Holy Word, we beseech Thee to build within us those resources of strength and hope which will lift us out of the lowlands of doubt and defeat into the highlands of faith and victory.

Grant that none of the hardships and handicaps of life may cause us to be fainthearted, but may we accept them without complaint and have the courage and patience to carry on faithfully and bravely.

We humbly confess that frequently we are content to stand on the sidelines and be neutral, as far as the moral values are concerned, and ready to agree with almost anything, just to be agreeable.

Make us proud and unashamed of our commitments as spiritually minded men and women, and may we declare ourselves to be for whatsoever things are true and just, without question or compromise.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1959

Job 33: 4: *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

O THOU WHO ART THE GIVER OF LIFE, may we enter upon the appointed task of this day renewed and refreshed in body and soul and with Thy spirit shedding its light and radiance upon our pathway.

Grant that we may not view the hours of this new day with apprehension and anxiety but with an awareness that they will afford us many opportunities to have a part in building a better and happier world.

We pray that when we are confronted by challenging situations we may not stand still in a confused and perplexed state of mind but go forward with confidence and courage for Thou wilt guide and guard us.

Show us how we may enlarge and expand our faith to new dimensions and make us more eager to accept and fulfill our responsibilities toward Thee and all mankind.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1959

Genesis 24: 40: *The Lord will send His angels with thee, and prosper thy way.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, apart from whom we have neither wisdom nor understanding, Thou art aware of our many daily needs and acquainted with the things which so frequently cloud our minds and disturb our emotions.

Grant unto us Thy peace to sustain and strengthen us and Thy divine power that will enable us to think clearly and act wisely and live happily.

May the duties and tasks of our high vocation never lose their sanctity and solemnity and, at the beginning of each new day, may we review the vows, which we have taken, and resolve to serve Thee and our generation faithfully.

Inspire us with a greater zeal to seek the welfare and share in the interests of others and may they feel our friendly spirit and sense our good will toward them and find encouragement in our sympathy and kindness.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who went about doing good and whose thoughts concerning us are those of love and peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1959

Jonah 2: 7: *When my soul fainted within me, I called upon the Lord.*

ETERNAL GOD OUR FATHER, may we always pray sincerely, for Thou hast told us in Thy Holy Word that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

We humbly acknowledge that daily we are beset and besieged by tensions and troublesome pressures which keep our spirits at a low level.

Again and again we are tempted to feel sorry for ourselves and to yield to self-pity.

Give us the glad assurance that Thou art able and willing to cure us of all our worries and mental roadblocks.

Hear us through the merits of our blessed Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1959

Leviticus 25: 19: *Ye shall proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS, we thank Thee for our Declaration of Independence in which the Founding Fathers stated in verbal form their indomitable faith and deepest convictions.

Grant that our beloved country may be inspired and strengthened in its glorious mission of releasing the hidden splendor of humanity and leading mankind into the radiant light of a new day of freedom and fraternity.

We are not asking Thee to deal with our Republic in any preferential manner but that we may be loyal partners with all who are striving to establish peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1959

Joshua 1: 5–6: *I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee; be strong and of good courage.*

O THOU WHO DOST CONTROL AND PRESIDE OVER THE DESTINIES OF MANKIND, grant that, in the deliberations and decisions of this day, our Speaker and the Members of Congress may be blessed with a great faith in Thee and in the power of righteousness.

May we be confident that our beloved country will never go down in defeat or lose its national identity, if, as citizens of this Republic and leaders in the affairs of church and state, we continue to turn toward Thee for counsel and are obedient to Thy commands.

Make us a united people, willing to exercise self-restraint and self-denial and ready to undergo any sacrifice for the honor of our country and help us to hasten the coming of that time when there shall be greater harmony and more lasting reconciliations and agreements among the nations of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1959

Psalm 100: 5: *The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we now render unto Thee the homage of our minds and hearts and bring them into harmony with Thy holy will.

Make us wise in counsel and understanding; courageous in championing the lofty principles of democracy; conscientious about enacting programs of legislation that are just and beneficial.

Inspire and sustain us in the arduous task of safeguarding our liberties and show us how we may extend the frontiers of freedom unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1959

Daniel 2: 20: *Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are His.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we are again coming unto Thee in prayer, for we know that for guidance and courage, for insight and inspiration, we need Thy divine companionship and counsel.

Grant that we may have a vivid and vital sense of Thy presence in this Chamber, revealing unto us those ways and means which will be curative and creative in the building of a nobler civilization.

May we always be sensitive and responsive to those lofty aspirations and impulses with which Thou are continually stirring our hearts and which transcend the wisdom of our own plans and purposes.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1959

Matthew 28: 20: *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the Companion of our lives and the Counselor in all our affairs, we pray that Thou wilt bless us with a larger measure of

transfusion of Thy divine Spirit to enrich and strengthen our own spirits for we know that we are feeble and frail.

We beseech Thee to shield us in these perilous days from those dark moods and devastating fears which are continually storming the citadel of our souls and seeking to undermine our faith and peace.

Grant that when the burdens of life are heavy to bear and we are in danger of being beaten down by the blows of adversity, we may not give way to a spirit of sullen resignation but use them as steppingstones to better things.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1959

John 10: 10: *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

O THOU WHO ART OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, we are daily praying that Thou wilt mediate unto us, through Thy spirit, that needed wisdom and power which will enable us to see our duties more clearly and perform them more faithfully.

Grant that each to extent of his ability and all with equal fidelity may seek to have a place in achieving for mankind a larger measure of the more abundant life.

We pray that Thou wilt continue to bless our bleoved country and all who are united with us in the high adventure of establishing peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1959

Jeremiah 17: 7: *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord and whose hope the Lord is.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the source and inspiration of every noble desire, grant that daily we may seek Thy glory and devote ourselves to the task of bringing blessedness to the life of needy humanity.

Show us how we may combat and conquer all the evils of prejudice and bigotry which impede the progress of those beneficent purposes which Thou hast for the members of the human family.

May we pray fervently and labor earnestly for the coming of that brighter and better day when the hearts of men and nations everywhere shall go out to one another in the spirit of friendship and good will.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1959

Isaiah 41: 6: *They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, whose divine help we so greatly need, inspire us to be more conscious of Thy all-pervading presence and sustaining power when we face the tensions and pressures of each new day.

May our labors be crowned with success as we endeavor to widen the areas of cooperation and good will among the nations of the earth, with none seeking their own selfish advantage.

Grant us the faith to believe that the kingdom of righteousness and peace is slowly and surely being built, no matter how dark the clouds of national and international welter and woe, at times, may seem to be.

We beseech Thee to accept our praises and answer our petitions through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1959

Psalm 23: 6: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, of whose bounty we have all received and whose mercies cannot be numbered, may we ever be mindful of the attendant responsibility to prove worthy stewards of Thy manifold blessings.

Grant that through the miracle and ministry of Thy grace and goodness we may be inspired to be more sensitive in our sympathies and more responsive to the needs of the less fortunate members of the human family.

May our longings and labors for the welfare of mankind be an earnest of our love toward Thee and a manifestation of our gratitude for the gift of Thy Son, our Saviour, with whom Thou hast freely given us all things.

In His name we offer our prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1959

I Corinthians 2: 5: *That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

ETERNAL GOD, who art the source of wisdom and power for all who need counsel and strength, grant that daily we may enter upon new ventures of faith.

Help us to understand that the peace which we are striving for and prize so highly cannot be secured and maintained until Thy Spirit prevails and permeates the life of men and nations.

We pray that Thou wilt bestow upon our Speaker and the Members of Congress the benediction of Thy grace and favor as they seek to fulfill the duties of their high calling with a sincere and steadfast devotion.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1959

Hebrews 13: 6: *That we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR AND FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, may we daily appreciate Thy goodness more fully and discern Thy beneficent purposes more clearly.

Gird us with faith and fortitude for the events and experiences of each new day for we know not what a day may bring forth and may Thy peace be our strength and song as we commit ourselves gladly to the dispensation of Thy divine providence.

Grant that with hearts of love and minds of good will we may enter sympathetically and helpfully into the life of needy humanity, sharing with others the blessings which bring us health and happiness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1959

John 14: 27: *Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who art our strength and hope, we beseech Thee to inspire our minds with Thy truth and enlarge our hearts with Thy love.

Grant that the gift of this new day may fill us with rejoicing as we contemplate the privilege and opportunity which it affords us of serving Thee and doing good unto all who come within our influence.

May we be constrained and motivated with an earnest desire to follow the way of Thy commandments and to discharge faithfully the duties which Thou dost require of us.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1959

I Thessalonians 5: 15: *Ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we again draw nigh unto Thee in prayer, may we surrender our wills to Thine and yield our spirits to Thy Spirit to be led in the ways of purity and peace.

We pray that Thou wilt strengthen and sustain us in the fulfillment of our daily duties and so rule us by Thy wisdom and power that we shall always desire and do that which is right and well pleasing unto Thee.

Help us to find in the common experiences and routine tasks of life, opportunities and occasions to serve Thee and achieve blessedness for all mankind.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1959

Matthew 11: 28: *Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, the source of all light to direct us and all power to sustain us, grant that assured by Thy presence and peace, we may discharge our duties without complaint or compromise.

We penitently confess that we are frequently so unresponsive to the solicitations of Thy love and so reluctant to accept the overtures of Thy companionship and counsel.

Deliver our minds and hearts from all feelings of frustration and failure for Thy grace is sufficient for our every need.

Inspire us with the spirit of patience and perseverance whenever we are confronted by problems for which our finite wisdom seems to have no satisfactory solution.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1959

I Samuel 16: 7: *The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are now approaching Thy throne of grace with a humble spirit and a contrite heart for we feel constrained by Thy great love and compelled by our many needs to call upon Thee.

We beseech Thee to inspire us to be more conscientious and scrupulous about discharging faithfully every appointed task.

Illumine with the spirit of wisdom and understanding the minds and hearts of all who administer and have charge of our civic affairs.

May the laws that are being enacted by the Congress be the expressions of Thy divine will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1959

Lamentations 3: 25: *The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, daily many deep, heartfelt needs and haunting longings impel us to wait upon Thee and seek Thy face in prayer.

We earnestly beseech Thee to lift us above all anxieties and fears into a faith that fulfills itself in a greater courage and joy.

Grant that, dedicated to the ministry of the true and the good, we may give help and hope to all who are finding the struggle of life so difficult.

May we be loyal partners with men and nations everywhere who are laboring to build a world wherein righteousness reigns and the law of love is gloriously triumphant.

Hear us in the name of the lowly Man of Galilee who went about doing good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1959

Proverbs 16: 3: *Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE, we thank Thee for this moment of prayer, calling us together in the fellowship of adoration and praise, of penitence and confession, of supplication and intercession.

Grant that we may eagerly desire, rightly understand, and wisely pursue those ways of life which are well pleasing unto Thee.

Help us to aspire and strive continually to achieve that which is highest and best in character and conduct.

Inspire all men and nations to find their joy and blessedness in walking the highways of righteousness and peace, of good will and mutual trust.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1959

Hebrews 10: 22: *Let us draw near unto God with a true heart in full assurance of faith.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we have come from Thee, and belong to Thee and our lives only have reality and value as we live in Thee and Thou in us.

Help us to feel that we cannot attain unto the more abundant life, which Thou hast ordained for us, until we surrender and commit ourselves completely to Thy guidance and control.

Grant that in all our relations and contacts with our fellow men may we manifest the spirit of our blessed Lord who came to heal the hurts and heartaches of humanity.

May we have more of His sympathy and compassion, more of His trust in Thee and more of His burning passion to break down the barriers which separate the members of the human family from Thee and from one another.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1959

Psalm 16: 7–8: *I will bless the Lord who hath given me counsel; He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*

O THOU SUPREME LORD OF OUR LIVES, Thou knowest the difficult tasks and heavy responsibilities which, during these days, lie before our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress.

May they be conscious of the sacred trust, which Thy divine providence has committed unto them, to establish and maintain the spirit of unity and concord among all the citizens of our beloved country.

Inspire their minds and hearts with special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and impartial judgment, that they may uphold courageously that which is right and fair and follow faithfully whatever is honest and true.

We pray that Thou wilt abate and abolish every selfish ambition and unworthy motive and all feelings of envy and ill will among the various classes in our social order, healing the divisions and discord, and strengthening the desires for mutual benefit.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1959

II Corinthians 3: 5: *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves but our sufficiency is from God.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant that during this day we may achieve a greater gain in helpful things and experience a more blessed joy in higher things.

We earnestly beseech Thee that the Members of this legislative body may be directed by Thy divine counsel for without Thy guidance their wisdom is folly and they labor in vain.

May their constituents daily commend them to Thy all-sufficient grace that in their deliberations and decisions they may be endowed with clear vision and right judgment.

Inspire the nations and their leaders to pursue the ways of peace and good will and seek to extend and enlarge the boundaries of the kingdom of righteousness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1959

I Kings 3: 9: *Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart that I may discern between good and bad.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE OF OUR LIFE and its satisfaction, in every perplexing problem may we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee and know the inspiration and strength of Thy presence.

Grant that in our daily associations and contacts with our fellow men we may bear witness to the noble and magnanimous spirit of our blessed Lord who went about doing good and giving men power to overcome their fears and frustrations.

Make us more eager to lend a helping hand and speak a word of cheer to all who are striving to conquer those dark moods and hazardous situations which have gotten them down and robbed them of their peace and joy.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1959

Romans 12: 17: *Provide things that are honest in the sight of all men.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we acknowledge gratefully that Thy concerns and love for needy humanity are universal and limitless.

May we go forth into the hours of this new day, each seeking Thy divine guidance, as we try to find an honest solution for the many difficult problems in our human relationships.

Grant that, in our search for that which is helpful and true, we may have regard and respect for the points of view of others.

Give us the wisdom and grace to credit them with having ideas and opinions, feelings and loyalties which deserve to be consulted and considered.

Inspire us with the courage to detest and destroy everything that is wrong in our social order.

May we continue to pray and labor for the dawning of that day when there shall be a civilization more noble than the world has ever known.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1959

III John 11: *Follow that which is good for he that doeth good is of God.*

ETERNAL GOD, grant that daily, in character and conduct, we may be inspired to follow the precepts and example of our blessed Lord.

Show us how we may bring relief and release to all for whom life seems to have lost its wonder and adventure because of strain and stress.

We penitently confess that we are frequently so reticent about expressing our sympathy and encouragement even to those who are near and dear unto us.

Make us more helpful in building the kindgdom of brotherhood when every selfish interest shall be supplanted by the spirit of altruism and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1959

Deuteronomy 33: 27: *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, as we now turn our minds and hearts unto Thee, may we have that spirit of sincerity and humility which assures us that Thou wilt hear and answer our prayers.

May a sense of Thy presence and power rescue and redeem us from those fears and anxieties which weaken our morale and unfit us to discharge faithfully our tasks and responsibilities.

Grant that we may be sustained by a faith in those eternal values and verities which no change of events or conspiracy of adverse circumstances can ever touch or take away.

Help us to cultivate a capacity and love for whatsoever things are noble and true and inspire us with a trust and courage that will make us equal to that which Thou dost desire and demand.

In Christ's name we offer our petitions. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1959

Psalms 100: 5: *The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, this new day is challenging us with the task of contributing to the blessedness of needy humanity.

It is our humble testimony that we are greatly amazed when we see the heroism and patience of many whose daily life is sorely beset by heavy burdens, bitter sorrows, and grievous handicaps.

61437—60——9

May we never withhold the word of encouragement and the hand of helpfulness from those who are weary and finding it hard to carry on.

Grant that in all our plans and purposes we may seek to emulate the spirit of the Master who came to bring peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1959

Isaiah 45: 5: *I girded thee, though thou has not known me.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL OUR DAYS, may the renewal of soul and the rest of body and mind that we received on the Lord's Day inspire us with strength for the duties and responsibilities of this new week.

May Thy Spirit come nearer than we have ever known before, dispelling the doubts that assail us and the feelings that Thou dost neither know nor care about, the troubles and trials which we are facing.

We beseech Thee to silence our anxious thoughts and gird us with confidence and courage when we are in danger of becoming weary and sick at heart because of the strife and sadness in the world around us.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1959

Proverbs 15: 8: *The prayer of the upright is the Lord's delight.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are grateful for the invitation and the privilege of coming unto Thee through the old and familiar way of prayer.

Grant that we may realize that no therapy can do more for us than the ministry of prayer, keeping our minds clear to know the truth, and our hearts courageous to pursue life's highest goals with patience and persistence.

Help us to feel that Thou art always able and willing to bring to our aid the strengthening resources of Thy divine grace as we struggle to overcome our hardships and handicaps.

May we have the wisdom and the will to stand up under the pressures of life and the faith that sees beyond them for Thou hast not created us for failure but for victory.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1959

Deuteronomy 9: 3: *Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is He who goeth before thee.*

O THOU WHO ART THE INFALLIBLE COUNSELOR OF OUR MINDS, in this moment of prayer, wilt Thou answer our loftiest aspirations with Thy divine inspiration.

We are commending and committing our President to Thy gracious providence as he takes counsel with the leaders of the peace-loving nations.

May Thy Holy Spirit guide them and enable them to register a larger measure of achievement in promoting amity and concord among all the members of the human family.

Grant that, as we face wistfully a future that none can forecast or foresee, we may never be tempted to feel that the better nature of man has expended itself and is incapable of ascending to greater heights.

Help us to fortify our souls with the assurance that the future will be as radiant and bright as the promises of God.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1959

Matthew 5: 9: *Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.*

O THOU WHO ART SEEKING TO GUIDE US in the ways of freedom and righteousness, grant that in these perilous times our chosen leaders, now in conference, may be guided with that divine wisdom which never errs and that divine strength which cannot fail.

May they extend to one another the overtures of good will and friendship and be eager to join heart and hand in the task of establishing peace on earth.

Give the nations vision and venture in the great redemptive ministry of leading bruised and brokenhearted mankind out of the darkness of hatred and fear into the glorious light of the kingdom of brotherhood.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1959

Isaiah 58: 11: *The Lord shall guide thee continually.*

O THOU WHO HAST REVEALED THYSELF AS THE GUIDING INTELLIGENCE, grant that we may meet and master the difficult problems of this new week with an indomitable faith and the fortitude of an unconquerable soul.

61437—60——10

May we never feel that we are the victims of fate and that the odds are against us as we face obstacles that seem to be insurmountable.

Help us to declare courageously that we are ready to follow without question or compromise whatsoever things are true and righteous.

We beseech Thee to establish deeply within us those resources and reserves which will enable us to carry on bravely when the winds are contrary and our strength is in danger of being depleted.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1959

Psalm 25: 4: *Show me Thy ways, O Lord.*

O THOU BLESSED AND ETERNAL GOD, may we sense Thy guidance more vividly as we undertake the arduous task of finding ways of ministering to the welfare of all mankind.

We humbly acknowledge that our plans and purposes, our efforts, and endeavors for the establishment of a finer social order are frequently so futile and fruitless.

Inspire our Speaker and the Members of this legislative body with a deep concern for the honor and security of our beloved country and may they always perceive what is needful and propose what is right.

May we earnestly strive to keep inviolate the faith of our God-fearing fathers who were guided by lofty spiritual principles in their labors to build a great nation.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1959

Hebrews 12: 2: *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we thank Thee for the blessings which Thou art bestowing upon us so generously and abundantly for our need and comfort.

Show us how we may cope successfully with every perplexing problem and resist victoriously the manifold trials and temptations which assail us.

May we petition Thee more earnestly for a clearer discernment of Thy holy will and for the inspiration of Thy presence as we discharge the duties of each new day.

Grant that our life may be an influence for good unto all with whom we come into contact and may we never overlook an opportunity to speak a kind word and extend a helping hand.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1959

Nahum 1: 7: *The Lord is good and a stronghold in the day of trouble.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose paternal goodness is unfailingly kind and merciful, we beseech Thee that this may be a day of helpful living and useful labor.

Give integrity of purpose and fidelity in every trust to the Members of this legislative body as they engage in the business of statecraft.

Grant that in the administration of public affairs they may acknowledge their dependence upon divine guidance and seek to render a service to our country and all mankind that will be worthy and well pleasing unto Thee.

May we never allow ourselves to be enticed from the path of truth and righteousness and may Thy everlasting arms be our shield and shelter, keeping us secure and steadfast in all Thy ways.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

Psalm 112: 7: *He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, inspire us now to receive and respond to all the experiences of this new day in ways that shall be acceptable unto Thee.

Grant that we may have a greater insight into Thy gracious and beneficent purposes and seek more eagerly to bring them to fulfillment.

We pray that Thou wilt lead us in these perilous times into those safety zones of peace and blessedness which Thou hast marked out for all who put their trust in Thee.

May none of the pressures of life deflect our minds and hearts from loyalty to those noble ideals and instincts which Thou hast implanted within our souls.

Help us to give ourselves as completely to the work of preserving our freedoms [redacted] our forefathers gave their lives to the task of establishing them.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1959

Mark 5: 36: *Be not afraid, only believe.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily encounter unknown and untried experiences, may we commit ourselves to Thy divine providence with courage and hope, claiming Thy promise, "I will never fail thee nor forsake thee."

We cannot ask for anything more and dare not ask for anything less than the assurance of Thy presence, Thy peace, and Thy power in our longings

and labors to discharge faithfully and for Thy glory the tasks and responsibilities which are ours.

Help us to subdue and conquer every self-centered ambition and desire and may our minds and hearts be stirred with new vistas of blessedness and new visions of service for all the needy members of the human family.

Hear us in the name of the Master who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1959

I Corinthians 3: 9: *We are laborers together with God.*

O THOU GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, who hast blessed us with the gift of a new day, may all of its hours be radiant and vibrant with that which is noble and beautiful.

Grant that this Labor Day may kindle within us a longing to have a larger part in building a social order in which bruised and burdened humanity shall find and enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity, of health and happiness.

Inspire us to give life a more sacred and valiant reading by interpreting and manifesting its high and holy meaning and mission in terms of service for Thee, our beloved country, and all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1959

II Timothy 2: 3: *Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, with a humble spirit and a contrite heart we are now earnestly beseeching Thee that daily we may have a vivid experience of Thy nearness unto us.

Help us to be more responsive to the influence and guidance of Thy Holy Spirit wherever we find ourselves confronted by hardships and heartaches.

Purge our souls from those aspirations which are alien to the mind and contrary to the will of our blessed Lord.

May nothing dull our capacities for whatever service Thou hast ordained and appointed us to render in our day and generation.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1959

John 16: 33: *In the world ye shall have tribulations; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

ETERNAL GOD, whose resources of wisdom and understanding are always available, grant us a greater appreciation of Thy grace and goodness.

May we see more clearly that the measure of our faith and trust in Thee will determine the measure of our joy and courage as we face life's duties and demands.

Help us to pray fervently and labor faithfully for the coming of that blessed time when mankind shall feel the impact and inspiration of lofty ideals and principles.

Show us how we may stem the tides of materialism and seek to be loyal and obedient to those spiritual instincts and capacities with which all men have been created and endowed.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1959

Luke 22: 42: *Not My will, but Thine be done.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we turn to Thee in prayer, the burdens of life become easier to bear, and our loneliness is dispelled by a great peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

We penitently acknowledge that we are frequently unready and unwilling to receive from Thy hand of love those blessings which Thou art so eager to bestow upon us and which we so sorely need.

Emancipate us from sullen and complacent tempers of mind lest we become too indifferent to care and too willful to learn.

Grant that in all the perplexing problems and hard decisions we may seek to make Thy wiser will our own, for our wills are ours to make them Thine. Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1959

Romans 5: 1: *We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of prayer, we are invoking the blessings of Thy merciful and gracious providence.

We humbly acknowledge that always and everywhere we need Thee; in our weakness to uphold and encourage us and in our strength to discipline and direct us.

May we daily beseech Thee to free our minds and hearts from every selfish ambition and to fortify them against those specters of fear and failure which haunt and assail us in times of pressure and perplexity.

Grant that our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all who have served our beloved country, in whatever capacity, during this session of the Congress may receive this benediction of Thy grace and praise, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

To Thy name we shall ascribe all the glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1959

Acts 20: 32: *And now, brethren, I commend you to God and the word of His grace.*

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT, we thank Thee for the high and holy privilege we have had during this session of the Congress of daily walking and working together in the service of our God, our country, and all mankind.

We pray that as we go up and down the courts of memory and call to mind the yesterdays, we may have the joy of knowing that we have sought to blend our wills with Thine and have tried faithfully to establish a nobler social order with peace on earth and good will among men.

Grant that when the hour of adjournment comes and we leave this Chamber we may commend and commit one another and all who are dear unto us to Thy love and care, assured that as our days so also shall our strength be and that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt also provide.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

Second Session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1960

Psalm 124: 8: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

O THOU WHO HAST OPENED UNTO US the gateway to a new year, we are earnestly seeking Thy divine guidance and strength as we enter upon this 2d session of the 86th Congress.

We beseech Thee to lay Thy hands of blessing and benediction upon our President, our Speaker, the Members of this legislative body, and all who are serving our beloved country in whatever capacity.

May our minds and hearts be the sanctuaries of Thy presence and the channels of Thy power.

Grant that when difficult problems and decisions throw all their weight against us we may lean hard upon Thee for help and learn the secret of victorious living.

Hear us as we bow in adoration and unite in offering unto Thee the prayer of the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Saviour.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1960

Romans 15: 13: *Now the God of peace be with you all.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we go forth into the days of this New Year, wilt Thou bestow upon us the blessings of Thy love and grace.

We humbly pray Thee to forgive our sins, emancipate us from all fears, exalt our aspirations, and enlarge our vision.

May our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress be endowed with wisdom and understanding as they face difficult problems for which there seems to be no adequate solution and are called upon to make decisions for which they have no precedent.

In times of turmoil and confusion, when we are tempted to become disheartened, wilt Thou reveal unto us those resources of power which will enable us to be strong and steadfast.

We thank Thee for the life and ministry of Thy servant, one of our colleagues who walked and worked with us for a little while upon this earth. Thou hast opened unto him the gateway to the larger life and received him into Thy nearer presence. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1960

Isaiah 40: 8: *The word of our God shall stand forever.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whatever the duties and responsibilities may be ours during this day, wilt Thou bestow upon us the blessings of Thy constant care and Thy unfailing presence.

Wilt Thou free our minds from anxiety and our hearts from fear, lifting them by Thy grace out of doubt into faith and out of despair into hope.

Help us to see and lay hold of the treasures of each passing hour and inspire us to share them cheerfully with Thy needy children.

When night draws nigh and the evening shadows gather round about us may we have the blessed remembrance of Thy companionship and the joy of knowing that we have had some part in building a better world.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1960

Matthew 1: 37: *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant unto us more of inner strength and peace that we may meet the challenges of our day with untroubled hearts.

We penitently confess that we have failed Thee so often even when Thou hast given us a clear vision and command as to what Thou art calling us to be and do.

Show us how we may dispel the confusion and chaos of these perilous times in which mankind is groping.

Gird and empower us by Thy Holy Spirit that we may help to direct the wills of men in the ways of truth and righteousness.

Reveal unto us the wonder and glory of that eternal kingdom which Thou art seeking to establish upon this earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1960

Proverbs 9: 10: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we now approach Thy throne of grace not only with our own individual needs and longings but with those of all mankind.

In penitence we confess that our prayers, so often in days gone by, have seemed to have been unanswered.

Inspire us to wait before Thee in deeper reverence and humility.

Purge our minds and hearts from doubts and misgivings and lift them by Thy spirit to the heights of courage and hope.

Help us to believe that nothing we ask and do in accordance with Thy divine and holy will shall pass away unheeded and unnoticed.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1960

Matthew 25: 40: *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may our prayer, at this noon hour, be one for the forgiveness of all our sins in the realm of human relations and for that peace which comes from pardon.

We acknowledge with humility and shame that we have so frequently taken a supercilious attitude toward our fellow men whom we do not regard and count our equal.

Wilt Thou forgive the blindness of our pride and prejudice which fails to see the worth of the least of Thy children and those in our social order who are unlike ourselves.

Grant that we may be purged of all our selfishness and petty self-concern and our indifference toward the untold numbers of needy and helpless members of the human family who are finding the struggle of life so difficult.

Hear us through the merits and mediation of that lowly Man of Galilee who came to proclaim the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1960

II Corinthians 5: 9: *Wherefore we labor that we may be accepted of Him.*

O THOU WHO ART GREAT IN MIGHT AND IN MERCY, in this moment of prayer, we are praising Thee for Thy goodness and seeking those needed blessings which Thou alone canst give.

We penitently confess that so frequently we betray and break faith with our better self and lapse from loyalty to Thee and allow the baser impulses to have their way with us.

Wilt Thou quicken and gird us with Thy Spirit that in all the various circumstances of life we may do Thy will with humility and sincerity.

Inspire us to carry on with faith and hope when the burdens of life become heavy and fears threaten to enslave us.

Show us how we may meet the hardships and weather the storms which we encounter in our journey toward the desired haven.

Hear us as we cry out, "Jesus Saviour, pilot me." Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1960

I Samuel 12: 20: *Turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve Him with all your heart.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou knowest how greatly we need Thy divine wisdom to understand and Thy divine strength for the responsibilities which daily press so heavily upon us.

May our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body never falter or fear to make right decisions.

Grant unto them that courage of heart and peace of mind which only integrity and fidelity can give.

Deliver us from anxiety and make us strong of faith to dare and of hope to endure when we are in danger of being buffeted from our course by the winds of adversity.

Help us to go forward courageously with a clear vision of Thy guiding presence and with the assurance of Thy sustaining power.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1960

James 4:10: *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.*

ETERNAL GOD, as we turn to Thee in prayer and meditate upon Thy grace and goodness, wilt Thou inspire us with more of gratitude and devotion.

May we now, with one accord, beseech Thee for that needed wisdom which is far beyond our fallible and finite minds but never withheld from any who come unto Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

We pray that Thy Holy Spirit may engender and kindle within us a sincere desire to do Thy bidding with a greater faithfulness and a more determined will.

Grant that neither despair from within nor enemies from without may ever becloud our vision of Thy divine presence with us and Thy beneficent purposes for us.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1960

I John 5: 4: *This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, may we now turn the thoughts of our minds and the meditations of our hearts toward Thee without hesitation or misgiving.

We rejoice that the record of a thousand yesterdays testify that Thou art more ready to grant our requests than we are willing to ask or receive.

Make us daily more sensitive and responsive to those great moral and spiritual impulses and imperatives which Thou hast planted within our souls.

May we long to be numbered among that vast company of honorable and dedicated men and women who sympathize with the needs of humanity and are laboring for the welfare of all mankind.

Help us to meet the problems and perplexities of our distraught and disordered world with a faith that is courageous and invincible.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Master. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1960

James 5:16: *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may we begin this new day with a refreshed and renewed sense of Thy victorious and indwelling presence.

Whatever our personal needs and troubles may be wilt Thou surround and sustain us with the assurance of Thy gracious providence.

Grant that amid the pressures of our troubled days we may have within us that peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

Inspire us to break down the barriers which divide mankind by sharing our blessings with the poor and destitute, and by giving comfort and cheer to those whose hearts are heavy and broken.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1960

Amos 5:14: *Seek good and so the Lord shall be with you.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, may Thy Holy Spirit now take complete possession of our spirits, giving us insight and inspiration as we seek to be victorious over life's many trials and strive to solve its perplexing problems.

We pray that Thou wilt weave into the texture and fabric of our minds and hearts the virtues of faith and courage, of patience and endurance.

May Thy peace have its habitation in our souls and fill us with that inner strength which can never be defeated by any fears and anxieties.

Wilt Thou bestow Thy benediction upon all who are laboring for the good of mankind, bringing to humanity the blessings of health and happiness, of safety and security.

We thank Thee for the life and character of our colleague whose spirit now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1960

Psalms 4: 8: *Lead me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness, and make Thy way straight before my face.*

ETERNAL GOD, who art always seeking to reveal Thyself and come near unto us to transform and transfigure our lives, may we now open widely the door of our hearts to Thy presence and Thy peace.

We acknowledge gratefully that there are times when Thou art very real unto us and we are confident of Thy companionship and have strong assurance of Thy gracious and beneficent purposes.

Grant that these occasional and intermittent experiences may become the constant and abiding experiences in our lives.

Give us wisdom and understanding that we may see and comprehend more clearly the magnitude of our tasks and face them more courageously.

Fill us with a great longing to strengthen the spiritual foundations of our Republic and to kindle within the souls of men and nations the spirit of good will and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1960

Romans 8: 31: *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast blessed us with the gift of a new day, fill our minds and hearts with gratitude and inspire us to make our lives more meaningful and useful.

Help us to search ourselves to see how complacent and contented we often are without any concern or care for the needy members of the human family who are in distress and heavily burdened.

Grant that as men and women engaged in the business of statecraft we may glory in the dignity of our high vocation and have a deeper appreciation of the sacredness of our tasks and responsibilities.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1960

I Chronicles 16: 11: *Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His face continually.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may we discover anew, during this day, Thy will for us and dedicate ourselves to it with a wholehearted devotion.

Forgive us for those moods of rebellion and resentment when we are tempted to think that our human existence is meaningless and that we are the victims of a conspiracy of evil circumstances.

May we be delivered from cynicism and sullenness and all those tempers of mind which make us feel that life has not been just or fair to us.

Help us to find those ways and means which will bring blessedness and good cheer to all mankind and constrain men and nations to live together in the spirit of brotherhood and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1960

[From Extension of Remarks of Hon. Carl Albert, of Oklahoma, Congressional Record, p. A1127]

INVOCATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF A BRONZE PLAQUE BEARING THE NATIONAL MOTTO, "IN GOD WE TRUST," AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE MAIN POST OFFICE BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 3, 1960

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, we rejoice that Thou hast also been the God of all their succeeding generations.

We humbly acknowledge that in our day and generation we are facing tasks and responsibilities which challenge and demand the consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Help us to feel that America's great hour has come when we must revive our trust in Thee and in the spiritual foundations of our beloved country.

Grant that all the barriers of doubt and misgiving which separate us from Thee may be supplanted and submerged by a renewed trust in Thee.

Create within us those desires which Thou dost delight to satisfy. May we hold our own wishes in abeyance until Thou dost declare Thy will. On Thee may we depend for light to know, for wisdom to choose, and for strength to perform.

Give us a greater faith in the glorious prediction that they who trust in Thee and wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1960

II Corinthians 1: 24: *For by faith ye stand.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known, we are daily bringing unto Thee our deep and disturbed concern for the future and its manifold problems.

Thou knowest how greatly we need the virtues of faith and tranquility, of patience and endurance, for we are often like "children in the night, children crying for the light, and with no language but a cry."

We thank Thee for these days when we are privileged to call to mind and pay tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, that great patriot, in whose heart the fires of faith burned brightly, and who placed his supreme confidence in Thee and in the sanctity and abiding reality of the moral and spiritual order.

May our Speaker and all the Members of Congress be men and women of strong faith and continue to be in the vanguard of those noble and valiant spirits who believe assuredly that nothing can ever hinder or impede the progress of the kingdom of righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1960

Nehemiah 2: 20: *The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore, we, His servants, will arise and build.*

ETERNAL GOD, whose divine providence surrounds our lives continually, make us more aware and responsive to Thy gracious promises as we enter upon the tasks of this new week.

Give us a clearer vision and a loftier appreciation of the many opportunities which each day affords us of leading and lifting needy humanity nearer to Thyself and to a larger measure of the more abundant life.

Show us how we may achieve those moral and spiritual qualities of character on which a nobler civilization may be built.

Grant that the Members of Congress may be the pioneers of a new and better era as they seek, through legislation, to make a constructive contribution to the solution of our many complex national and international problems.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1960

Acts 11: 24: *He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, constrain us now by Thy love to open widely the doors of our minds and hearts to the peace and power of Thy Holy Spirit.

We humbly confess that daily we are confronted by needs which we cannot supply, problems we cannot solve, questions we cannot answer, and tasks which are too great for our unaided strength.

Impart unto us those qualities of faith and fortitude which will lift and liberate us from the fears and anxieties, the moods of complaint and self-pity, which so often assail and seek to enslave us.

Grant that in all the human relationships of life we may be true to one another, dealing honestly, showing kindness, and seeking the health and happiness of all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Master Who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1960

Judges 6: 12: *The angel appeared unto Gideon and said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."*

O THOU WHO ART MAN'S REFUGE AND STRENGTH in every generation, we thank Thee for this day in the annals of our national history when we unite to commemorate the life and character of George Washington whom we reverently and affectionately call the Father of his Country.

Our hearts expand with pride and patriotism as we call to mind his fidelity to the principles of human rights in championing the cause of the oppressed colonists; his fortitude in times of hardship, and his unwavering faith in divine providence which sent him down on his knees in prayer at Valley Forge that he might know how to march in step with the eternal will and wisdom of God.

Grant that the memory of this great American patriot may strengthen the soul of our Republic and inspire all of the citizens of our beloved country to be mighty men of valor girding themselves with the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit as they respond to the glorious adventure of bringing freedom and peace to our troubled world.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace whose spirit is the strength and hope of all mankind. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1960

Romans 12: 10: *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.*

O THOU WHO ART THE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, grant that in this Brotherhood Week we may understand more clearly that the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" must be answered conclusively in the affirmative.

We rejoice that in Thy great love Thou hast mercy and compassion upon our confused humanity with its bigotry and prejudice, its blindness and misunderstanding.

May we always look upon the frustrated souls of men and nations with sympathy and give us the insight to see the wonderful possibilities in those whom we so frequently misjudge and condemn.

Show us how we may walk and work together in the ways of friendship and build a social order in which there is blessedness for all mankind in its search and struggle for a freer and fuller life.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1960

Psalm 34: 14: *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

O THOU WHO ART MAN'S GREATEST FRIEND, we earnestly beseech Thee to instill within our hearts a deeper longing for peace and good will among all the divided classes and embittered members of the human family.

We penitently confess that again and again we have allowed the ties of fraternity to be broken and those whom we might have helped have been compelled to carry on in the loneliness of their own souls with none to comfort and sustain them.

Grant that we may be more appreciative and grateful for our friends who mean so much to us and upon whom we can always count for encouragement and guidance when we are downcast and bewildered and tempted to give up.

Show us how we may strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and help men everywhere to reach those heights of happiness and hope which otherwise would be impossible.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1960

II Corinthians 13: 11: *Be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that our hearts may be filled with gratitude for the innumerable material and spiritual blessings with which Thou dost crown each new day.

Make us also thankful for our trials and tribulations for they are comparatively so few in number, short in continuance, and merciful in design, teaching us to put our trust in Thee.

Show us how to exalt and enhance our democracy with its principles of freedom and justice for all mankind.

Enlarge our minds with an understanding sympathy which extends far beyond those selfish interests that mar the unity and stability of our beloved country.

May we be servants of the common good and worthy followers of those noble men and women who, by their loyalty and devotion, established and bequeathed unto [redacted] our Nation's glorious traditions.

Hear [redacted] in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1960

Philippians 2: 5: *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND MERCY, whose amazing love we cannot fathom, on this Ash Wednesday, ushering in the solemn and sacred Lenten season, may we be filled with penitence and humility as we turn to the cross to meditate upon the sufferings and sacrifice of the great Captain of Our Salvation.

Grant that by cultivating self-examination and self-discipline we may become richer in the culture of the soul and receive inner strength to gain the mastery over every insurgent impulse, every inordinate desire, and every self-indulgent habit.

May each day of this blessed season be a veritable gateway through which we shall enter joyously and victoriously into a deeper experience of those spiritual realities that were incarnated and revealed in the character and conduct of our Lord and Saviour.

We are extending our heartfelt sympathy and commending our Speaker and the members of his bereaved family to the consolations of Thy grace, as they mourn the death of their beloved brother.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1960

Psalms 51: 17: *A broken spirit and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we examine our lives during this Lenten season, we find sins and transgressions which only Thy mercy can pardon and potentialities and possibilities for good which only Thy grace can fulfill.

Create within us a beter ordered inner life with nobler instincts and higher impulses and may our minds and hearts always abstain and recoil from everything that might mar the sacredness and solemnity of this glorious season.

We humbly confess that we are guilty of many faults and mistakes which we repeat again and again but may we never grow careless and weary of trying to conquer them.

Inspire us each day with power to rise above all those wayward desires that defile and weaken our inmost being for Thou hast not created us for failure but for victory.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1960

Isaiah 55: 4: *Behold, I have given Him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we humbly beseech Thee that in this Lenten season, we may seek to accept and apply more wholeheartedly the teachings of our blessed Lord, to the end that the beauty and strength of His character may be more fully realized and manifested in us.

Make us daily more sensitive and responsive to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and show us how we may be victorious in the difficult task of being a true follower of the lowly Man of Galilee.

May we never be tempted to feel that this is far beyond our reach to achieve, and that in our day and generation we must needs be satisfied to live below His level and walk a less lofty way.

Inspire us to see life in a new perspective and may it be our most ardent longing to be lifted from the lowlands of doubt and fear to the higher altitudes of faith, hope, and love.

Hear us in our Master's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1960

Romans 10: 12: *The same Lord who is over all is rich unto all who call upon Him.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of prayer, may we yield our minds and hearts to the promptings and persuasions of Thy Holy Spirit to be touched to finer and nobler issues.

Teach us the truth, made known in the precepts and example of our blessed Lord, that we are members one of another and that by cultivating the fraternal spirit we shall gain a more vivid sense of Thy divine and universal fatherhood.

Show us how we may close the chasm between the strong and the weak, the prosperous and the unfortunate, the privileged and the handicapped by casting into it our pride and prejudice, our indifference and selfishness, and thus transform it into a highway where we may walk together in liberty and justice and blessedness for all.

Inspire our souls with a longing to achieve for mankind everywhere a life that is more abundant economically, a freedom that is coordinated with discipline and civic responsibility, and a happiness that is more abiding spiritually.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1960

Ephesians 6: 14: *Stand therefore, having on the breastplate of righteousness.*

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, who hast blessed us with the gift of a new day, may we seek to make its hours radiant in faith and rich in service.

Grant that in these strange and perilous times when we are tempted to yield to self-pity and discouragement we may have Thy grace to emancipate us from all fear of the future.

Show us how to live the larger and more abundant life of the Spirit so that when the evening shadows gather round about us we may have no haunting regrets but only the companionship of happy memories.

Inspire us daily to take the example of Him who went about doing good, helping the troubled heart of humanity toward the higher life and teaching all the members of the human family to love one another and so fulfill Thy commandments.

Hear us in His blessed name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1960

Proverbs 2: 6: *For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

ETERNAL GOD, we are bowing humbly in the fellowship of prayer, seeking together those blessings which none can ever find and enjoy alone.

We beseech Thee to evoke within us, during the serious deliberations of these days, a larger measure of the virtue of tolerance which always grants to others the right of opposing points of view and a willingness to listen to them.

Guide us in our quest for that just and fair solution of our difficult problems which will redound to Thy glory and the blessedness of all the inhabitants of our beloved country.

Inspire us with a firm commitment to maintain and perpetuate the noblest principles and ideals of democracy.

Grant that, in the midst of the world's darkness and confusion, we may always be able to say that our Republic still stands. We pray, however, that it may never be said that it is standing still but going forward with new vistas of outlook and new ventures of faith.

Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow Thee. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1960

Romans 4: 20: *He was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*

O THOU LORD OF TRUTH AND OF LIGHT, grant that our life during this day may be a pursuit of that which is noble and may we look for the best in others and always give unto them our best.

We thank Thee for lofty ideals and aspirations which call us to a life of integrity and service and beckon us to be true for there are those who trust us.

Hear us as we bring to Thy listening ear and understanding heart, the needs of humanity, beseeching Thee to give strength to all who are carrying heavy burdens and the consolations of Thy grace to those whose hearts are beset by loneliness and beshadowed by sorrows.

Raise up among us, in the affairs of state, men and women of faith and vision who have heard Thy voice and whom Thou hast endowed with the gifts of wisdom and leadership, lest in these troublous days, faltering and confused mankind may lose its way and wander in darkness.

Hear us in His name who is the Light of the World. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1960

Psalm 128: 1: *Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways.*

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, with gladness and gratitude we are coming unto Thee in this moment of prayer.

May we be numbered among those who, in the midst of these strange and strenuous days, have the courage to live in Thy spirit and to walk in Thy ways.

We humbly acknowledge that, in the area of human relationships, there are chasms which patience and sympathy, insight and understanding, diplomacy and statesmanship, must help to bridge.

Grant that there may be in the heart of humanity a new birth of charity and considerateness, of kindness and good will, and a belief in the reality of moral and spiritual values and of loyalty to them.

To Thy name we shall ascribe all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1960

I Corinthians 3: 9: *We are labourers together with God.*

OUR FATHER GOD, we rejoice that in every age there have been those who lift up hands in prayer and find in Thee a refuge. Put into our hearts that restlessness that calls to Thee in the voice of love, of intercession, of thanksgiving.

Let not our hands be withered by the selfish apathy of indifference in this time of international tension, of misunderstanding, of fear. Rather, may they be stretched forth in loving service at Thy command.

Amid surrounding temptations, grant us, hour by hour, the strength to be Thy disciples. Open our hearts and minds to the needs of those in whose midst Thou hast placed us, that we may live among them as the salt of the earth.

Forgive our many failures to live worthily as Thy children. Grant each of us grace enabling us in thought, word, and deed, so to live that Thy kingdom may come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1960

John 6: 38: *I came not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.*

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, as we again come unto Thee in prayer, may we not seek Thy strength and guidance to achieve our own personal wishes and desires but that we may know how to bring to fulfillment Thy beneficent plans and purposes for mankind.

Grant that it may be the goal of all our hopes and the deepest longing of our hearts to be worthy and faithful coworkers with Thee in doing Thy will.

Inspire us with the wisdom and the will to hasten the dawning of that blessed day when there shall be peace on earth.

We penitently confess that to establish peace appears at times so visionary that we have not the faith and courage to try it.

Open our minds and hearts that we may understand that love and peace are the divine and natural order of things in human society and that hatred and ill will are a delusion and a snare of the Devil.

Hear us in our Saviour's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1960

II Corinthians 4: 11: *That the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grateful for Thy divine providence, we are again gathering in the fellowship of prayer, bringing our many needs to Thy loving kindness; our weakness to Thy strength; our littleness to Thy greatness; and our sinful and wayward hearts to Thy grace and mercy to be pardoned and purified.

Grant that in the midst of the darkness and confusion of our times we may walk together in faith and in humility, seeking earnestly to know Thy holy will and doing it with courage and faithfulness.

May there be in us a new nativity of the spirit of sympathy and understanding, endowing us with insight to see more clearly the hidden splendor and the eternal worth of every human soul.

Inspire us with a nobler skill in the art of brotherly living and may the character and conduct of the lowly Man of Galilee be made manifest in all our contacts with our fellow men.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1960

Proverbs 14: 34: *Righteousness exalteth a nation.*

O THOU SUPREME RULER OF THE UNIVERSE AND OUR DIVINE CREATOR, who hast endowed us with certain inalienable rights, may we be eager to safeguard those rights for all the members of the human family.

We earnestly beseech Thee that our President, our Speaker, and the Members of this legislative body, who have been entrusted with leadership in the affairs of state, may be blessed with the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit in their ultimate decisions.

Grant that during these tense and trying days the bonds of good will and peace may be made stronger among the people of our great Republic.

Inspire us with lofty aspirations and noble impulses and with a sense of our sacred responsibility to establish policies and enact laws which are just and righteous, bringing blessedness to our beloved country and glory to Thy great and holy name.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1960

II Timothy 4: 7: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, in our prayer, at this noon hour, we are beseeching Thee to make our hearts the sanctuaries of Thy presence and to lift our minds to a clearer vision of Thy will and way for us.

May these days of crisis, which try our souls and tend to harden them, create within us new resources and capacities, enabling us to follow the loftiest ideals without fear and without faltering.

Inspire us with Thy divine truth and may it lead us in the way of the blessed life and the road of the loving heart girded with a victorious faith and a conquering hope.

Expand and enrich our souls with sympathy and good will toward all men that we may do unto others as we would that they should do unto us and so fulfill the law and the prophets in the spirit of our Lord and Master.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1960

Luke 4: 40: *Why are ye so fearful? Where is your faith?*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose mercies outnumber all our necessities, we are coming unto Thee constrained by Thy love, beseeching us to believe that Thou art willing and able to supply us with every needed blessing for each new day.

Fill our minds and hearts with a more vivid and vital faith for we humbly confess that in our daily thoughts and life we so frequently allow it to become deleted of its wonder and diluted of its power.

Grant that amid the yearnings of our troubled world and the tangle of human affairs we may be confident that beyond the dark clouds, which veil our vision, the sun of righteousness is still shining and Thy mighty purposes are working and being fulfilled.

We are remembering with grateful affection Thy servant, one of our colleagues, who has departed this life and answered the highest of all calls to dwell with Thee in eternal blessedness, having rendered many years of able and devoted service to our beloved country. Bless the members of his bereaved family with the assurance of Thy nearness and the consolation of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1960

Mark 4: 9: *He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, inspire us during this day with a faith, hope, and love more wonderful than we have ever dreamed or experienced, lifting us out of the dark welter of fear and anxiety to the lofty and radiant heights of peace and joy.

Grant that, amid the world's confused cries and hysteria of wild alarms, we may have ears that hear and heed Thy voice of gentle stillness teaching us the meaning of life and those noble things that belong to our peace and which we can only learn as we listen in an attitude of faith and humility.

Help us also to lay our ears to the heartbeat of humanity that we may listen and learn that far below the ferment, the friction, and feuds, which divide the members of the human family and mar our fellowship, we are all akin in our needs and longings.

Teach us that we can only help to establish a finer social order by striving to be more sympathetic and tolerant and patient toward one another and all mankind.

Hear us in the name of Him who came to tell us that Thou art love. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1960

John 8: 31–32: *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, united in a fellowship of common needs, we are beseeching Thee earnestly to answer our loftiest aspirations with the divine inspiration of Thy holy spirit.

May that inspiration endow us with a clearer insight and wiser understanding of our most difficult problems and renew within us a faith that constrains us to be faithful and fruitful in Christlike character and service.

Inspire us to live humbly and reverently, trusting that the future will be as bright as the promises of God and that if any man will do the will of God he shall know the truth and the truth shall make him free.

Hear us in His name who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1960

Hebrews 11: 6: *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose resources of divine wisdom are inexhaustible and abundantly adequate for all our needs, may this moment of prayer be one of earnest desire to know Thy truth and of sincere determination to do Thy will.

Grant that the deep and desperate things, which so frequently baffle us and dim our way, may never tempt us to yield to doubt and despair.

Help us to believe that we can conquer all those devastating moods and attitudes, which assail our minds and hearts, by cultivating and possessing a faith that is strong and radiant.

May we be eager to keep inviolate the faith of our God-fearing fathers and may the spiritual ideals upon which they built our Republic continue to be the guiding principles which we are seeking to enthrone in our own individual and national life.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1960

Psalm 147: 5: *Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, something deep and haunting within our minds and hearts compels us to turn to Thee in prayer although we cannot understand its meaning and measure its power.

We acknowledge penitently and humbly that in our human experience there are sins of omission and commission which only Thy mercy can pardon; sorrows that only the consolations of Thy grace can heal; questions which Thy divine wisdom alone can answer, and problems which Thou alone canst help us solve.

May we enter and go forth upon each new day trusting in Thee; keeping pure and undefiled the sanctuary of our souls; and going about doing good as our Master did.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, that discipline and sense of direction which we so sorely need, if we are to live the life of filial fellowship, of inner sanctity, and of fraternal service to humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1960

Psalm 72: 17: *His name shall endure forever; and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, we have entered humbly and reverently upon Holy Week, commemorating days in the life of our Saviour, whose solemn and sacred meaning our finite minds can only faintly comprehend.

We thank Thee for Palm Sunday when the King of Kings, who wore no crown, carried no scepter or sword, and displayed none of the emblems of temporal authority, but having in His heart the spirit of sacrificial love,

went forth on His glorious mission of releasing the hidden splendor of humanity, emancipating it from everything that defiles the life of man and mars the image of God in which we have been created.

Grant that we may continue His triumphal march and mission, having in our own hearts that same spirit of love and in our hands the palm branches of peace and good will, striving for that blessed day when all mankind shall accept His regal claims and be inspired to build a nobler civilization.

Hear us through the merits and mediation of our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1960

Luke 4: 4: *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that these days of Lent and of Holy Week, which we are now observing, may be for all of us not only a special season for commemorating the great sacrificial love of our blessed Lord but a time when our minds and hearts are stirred with a passion to consecrate and dedicate ourselves anew to that which is highest and holiest.

Forgive us for so frequently directing our thoughts and energies merely to a search for those temporal and transient things which we feel will gratify and minister to our epicurean desires for physical ease and comfort and with little concern for the abiding spiritual blessings.

Inspire us daily with that true humility of spirit and those nobler impulses, which befit the solemnity and sanctity of Holy Week, and help us to recognize and understand more clearly that if we are to achieve a deeper insight and a well-ordered inner life of peace and joy then we must give primacy to Thy word and the spiritual values, for man cannot live by bread alone.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1960

Colossians 3: 1: *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ dwelleth on the right hand of God.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, whose amazing love we cannot fathom, we rejoice that when there was no eye to pity and no arm to save, then, in the fullness of time, Thou didst send the Christ, Thine only begotten Son, the Great High Priest, who, on Good Friday, gave His life upon the cross, a willing and acceptable sacrifice for the salvation of the world.

We pray that, as we turn to the cross on the coming day to meditate upon its sacred meaning, we may hear and heed His voice saying unto us: "This I have done for thee, what wilt thou do for Me?"

May we respond to His love by sharing in His redemptive ministry and by helping to meet the needs of struggling and suffering humanity and lifting and leading all who dwell in darkness and bondage into the light and liberty of the Son of God.

Grant that on Easter Sunday we may be partakers of His glorious resurrection; and being raised to newness of spirit, may we aspire and labor to make our whole life a quest for those things that are noble and righteous and a conquest over everything that undermines our character and corrupts our souls.

Hear us in the name of our crucified Savior and risen Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1960

Romans 6: 4: *Like as Christ was raised from the dead, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

ETERNAL GOD, during these days after Easter Sunday, may our minds and hearts continue to be thrilled and inspired by the historic victory of our blessed Lord and be hallowed by the glorious assurance that life is ever lord of death and that love can never lose its own.

Grant that His resurrection may be a present experience, quickening our listless and languid souls into newness of faith, hope, and love and constraining us to be fearless and faithful followers of the living Christ.

May we daily pray and labor to bring to fulfillment our desires and dreams of a better world wherein dwelleth the spirit of the risen Lord.

In His name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1960

II Peter 1: 2: *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus, our Lord.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Whose presence and power are the supreme needs of our minds and hearts, we beseech Thee to govern and guide us by Thy divine Spirit as we assemble in this Chamber to take counsel together for the common good of our beloved country and all mankind.

Show us how we may mobilize our resources and contribute of our moral support and material substance toward the building of a nobler civilization with none of the members of the human family in dire need or seeking their own selfish advantage but all striving to widen the areas of cooperation and helpfulness and achieving a more intimate fellowship with Thee and a closer union with one another.

Grant that in spite of the many obstacles and reverses, which our Speaker and Representatives, in the business of statecraft, are continually encounter-

ing, may they carry on with increasing tenacity of faith, confident that our troubled world is moving on toward a new day when there shall be peace and more lasting reconciliations and agreements among all nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1960

Psalms 119: 130: *The entrance of Thy words giveth light.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art always speaking unto us through Thy Holy Word, may this verse of Sacred Scripture, with its message of comfort and assurance, be unto us a revealing light and a sustaining power during all the hours of this new day.

Grant that the thoughts of our mind and the meditations of our heart may daily be tempered and disciplined by the entrance of Thy words, giving us the spirit of charity and kindness, of tolerance and patience, as we seek to solve the difficult problems of human relationships.

May Thy divine words illumine and transfigure our loftiest aims and aspirations with spiritual insight and understanding and bring them in tune with a great faith which will enable us to meet the unknown tomorrow, however dark, without fear or confusion.

Humbly we offer our prayer in the name of the Christ, our Lord, in whom Thy word became flesh. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1960

Ephesians 4: 3: *Endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.*

O THOU GOD OF MIGHT AND MERCY, may the memory of Thy goodness daily come to the aid of our adventures of faith as we strive to build a social order in which all mankind shall obey Thy law of love and walk in the ways of brotherhood.

Teach us how to coordinate rights with responsibilities and freedom with discipline and may our lives rise to a new perspective and be lifted to higher levels and always be inspired to think and act as did the lowly Man of Galilee.

We pray that the bonds of unity and friendship with our allies, which sometimes are strained and go awry, may be more firmly strengthened.

May our diplomats, our ambassadors, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress be given wisdom and understanding in the great spiritual struggle to establish peace on earth and good will among men.

Grant that during these strategic days our President and the President of France may carry into their deliberations and decisions the mind and spirit of our blessed Lord.

May they be equal to their momentous international responsibilities and opportunities of helping all humanity become a people of kindred sympathies and common aspirations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1960

I Peter 1: 25: *The word of the Lord endureth forever.*

O THOU WHO ART OUR STRENGTH FOR TODAY and our hope for the morrow, may we daily seek more earnestly that purity of life by which Thou art known and that fidelity of true devotion with which Thou art pleased.

Grant unto us the strengthening and sustaining blessings of Thy plenteous grace when the burdens of life are heavy to bear and we are in dire plight of faith by reason of tidings of worldwide tensions and troubles which fill us with fear and foreboding.

We pray that we may conquer our haunting anxieties and inner discords by surrendering our disquieted and disturbed souls to Thy divine spirit, waiting to kindle our fading lamp of courage and to impart unto our minds. Thy peace and unto our hearts Thy love.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who walked our human way and went about doing good. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1960

John 8: 12: *He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

O THOU INFINITE AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant that during this day we may apply and act upon the words of our blessed Lord, the wisest of all teachers; the ablest and most willing of all helpers, who alone can emancipate us from sin and weakness, from fear and despair.

Inspire us, amid the vicissitudes of our mortal life, to put our trust in Thee and to walk by the faith which will make us courageous for all our duties and responsibilities.

We beseech Thee to sustain us in our loyalty to that which is noblest; enrich our hearts with love and good will toward all mankind; and teach us how we may serve Thy divine will in bringing redemption and peace to humanity.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1960

III John 11: *Follow that which is good.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME RULER AND GUIDING INTELLIGENCE in the life of men and nations, grant that during this National Youth Fitness Week, we may all dedicate ourselves anew to the high vocation of building a finer social order and a nobler civilization.

We penitently confess that we of elder years have handed on to the youth of our day and generation many heavy burdens and difficult problems in the areas of human relationships and have allowed our pride, our prejudices, and our self-interests to keep us from drawing closer to our fellow men in amity and good will.

In our humble and heartfelt prayer for the youth of our land we earnestly beseech Thee that they may be better and wiser than we have been and be empowered by Thy divine spirit to open the gateways of a new era for all mankind.

Inspire them with the wisdom and the will to help hasten the dawning of that blessed day of prediction when the chasms which divide the members of the human family shall be bridged by friendship and fraternity and all their adventures and achievements shall be for the good of humanity and the glory of God.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1960

Psalm 16: 7: *I will praise the Lord who hath given me counsel.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, who art the inspiration of our prayers and their answer, we beseech Thee to bless us daily with a vivid and vital sense of Thy divine counsel and companionship.

Grant that, as citizens of this great Republic, we may earnestly strive to cultivate and maintain the institutions, the traditions, and habits of a responsible and disciplined freedom.

Wilt Thou confirm us in our purposes and desires to live helpfully and harmoniously with all who are seeking to follow the ways of justice and righteousness.

Inspire us with aspirations and longings to live the life of sacrificial love and service which alone is worthy and capable of supplanting and overcoming all the hatreds and antagonisms among the members of the human family.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1960

II Corinthians 13: 11: *Finally, brethren, be of one mind; live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we now turn to Thee in prayer, wilt Thou renew within us the conviction that life is our most sacred possession and that Thou hast endowed us with power to make it blessed and meaningful for all mankind.

Grant that we may respond more eagerly to the beneficent and benign influence of the Holy Spirit, prompting and persuading us to solve our daily human problems on the high levels of a hallowed respect and reverence for human personality and for man created in the image of God and destined for immortal life.

We beseech Thee to supply with wisdom and understanding all who hold positions of leadership in the affairs of government, and prosper their counsels as they strive to bring peace and concord among the nations.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1960

Psalm 27: 1: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, as Thou hast set before us an unknown day and an untraveled way, wilt Thou open our minds and hearts widely to Thy kindly light to lead us and Thy divine strength to sustain us.

Grant that we may be men and women of insight and understanding, whose life and labors, in the vast upheaval of these perilous days, are illumined and girded with a great faith, confident that Thou wilt have Thy way with us and our troubled world.

May nothing obscure or eclipse the prophet's vision of that glorious day when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and neither shall they learn war any more.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1960

Revelation 3: 20: *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice and opens the door, I will come in, and sup with him and he with Me.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the source and inspiration of the true, the beautiful, and the good, in the plans and labors of this new week, may we be receptive and responsive to the voice and leading of Thy divine spirit, seeking to bless us with a happy, a useful, and more abundant life.

We are bringing unto Thee our fears and our foreboding thoughts about these days in which we are living and our apprehensions for humanity, earnestly beseeching Thee that we may appropriate by faith those resources of spiritual power and poise which will enable us to remain strong and courageous.

Grant that the demons of hatred and ill will, which have assailed and invaded the life of the nations and torn apart their unity, may be driven out and the heart of mankind may be opened to give lodgment to the blessed spirit of the Prince of Peace.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1960

Joel 2: 13: *Turn unto the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we rejoice that Thou art always willing to bestow upon us the priceless blessings of Thy wisdom to live by, Thy light to walk by, and Thy strength to sustain us.

Thou knowest that daily we are greatly disturbed and disquieted for we are being besieged by perplexing national problems and perilous international circumstances.

We penitently acknowledge that we are tempted to allow our minds to be centered merely upon tidings and things that are dark and gloomy, causing our hearts to be overcome by cowardice and cynicism.

In the vast concerns of our beloved country, for which we find ourselves unequal, wilt Thou give us a new perspective and a clearer vision of that blessed day when righteousness and justice shall be triumphant, and freedom and peace shall be the glorious possession of all mankind.

Through Christ Jesus, we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1960

Colossians 4: 5: *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of worship may there come into our bewildered minds and troubled hearts a reassuring sense of Thy presence and power, inspiring us with feelings of serenity and stability.

Grant that whenever we enter the sacred retreat of prayer our faltering spirits may be lifted from the lowlands of doubt and fear to the lofty heights of faith and courage, confident that our dream, of peace on earth, though delayed, will not be defeated.

Show us how we may help men and nations everywhere find the fellowship of Thy love and follow the light of Thy truth and walk together in the paths of mutual trust and good will.

We earnestly beseech Thee that our President, our Speaker, our Congress, and all who guide the affairs of our national and international life, may have a clear vision of Thy divine purpose and the wisdom and the will to pursue it faithfully.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1960

Proverbs 10: 9: *He that walketh uprightly, walketh securely.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in the quiet of this noon hour, inspire us with one accord, to commune humbly and reverently with Thy spirit. May we surrender ourselves in glad and willing obedience to Thy light that has followed us all our way and to Thy love that will never let us go.

Forgive our sins and imperfections, the waywardness of our desires and the irresolution of our undisciplined wills, that we may know the strength of being clean and free.

Help us in these strange days of tension and pressures, when our minds and hearts are filled with anxieties and wistful longings, to lay hold of Thee with increasing tenacity of faith which alone will enable us to carry on faithfully and without fear.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1960

Joshua 24: 24: *The Lord our God will we serve and His voice will we obey.*

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, in these days of world crisis and confusion, may we never allow our faith in Thy divine sovereignty to become extinguished and our vision of universal peace to become eclipsed.

We earnestly implore Thee that the leaders of nations, now attending the Summit Conference, may be united in a sincere desire and determination to achieve for broken and bruised humanity the blessings of a nobler and more excellent way of life.

Grant that our President and those assembled with him in the council chamber may be conscious of the unmistakable guidance of Thy Spirit, bestowing upon them wisdom and skill in finding the right approach and solution to the many complex international problems.

May our citizens encourage the hearts and strengthen the hands of our chosen representatives by giving them the clear and convincing assurance that they are willing and ready to make every sacrifice in the struggle to preserve the sanctity and security of our beloved country and the freedom of all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1960

Psalm 31: 1: *In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may we now hallow Thy name and receive Thy help to gain the mastery in all the bitter conflicts and precarious situations of these days when we are tempted to yield to a sense of failure and futility.

We earnestly beseech Thee to gird us with moral sagacity and noble strategy as we contend with the forces of lawless violence and brutal tyranny and may it never be true that the sons of this world, in their generation, are wiser than the sons of light.

Help us to believe that we can take the fear and restlessness out of our human life by putting our trust in Thee and by reminding ourselves that Thou art our refuge and strength.

Show us how we may learn to achieve a finer skill in the art of brotherly living and attain unto the wisdom and peace of seeking one another's welfare.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1960

II Timothy 4: 17: *The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who alone can make us equal to every untoward circumstance and every bitter calamity, wilt Thou give us a sense of security and strength as we walk a dim and shadowy way whose meaning our finite minds cannot comprehend.

Grant unto us the chivalry and courage of a strong faith which is confident that our anchor will hold no matter how fiercely the storms of adversity may rage and that out of the welter of world tragedy there will emerge a new and nobler era for all mankind.

Hear us as we daily pray that the nations of the earth may be drawn into a closer and deeper fellowship with one another, possessing the same passionate strivings after peace and righteousness and inspired with the same earnest longings to be comrades in the doing of Thy will.

In the name of our blessed Lord we pray. Amen.

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MONDAY, MAY 23, 1960

Colossians 4: 3: *Continue steadfastly in prayer.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thine is the strength which sustains us, the love which redeems us, the sympathy which comforts us, and the light which leads us.

Grant that we may never lose our faith in Thee, even though we are standing amid what seems to be the defeat of our fondest hopes and dreams.

Help us to believe that the vision of universal peace vouchsafed to our minds and hearts is not too lofty and too wonderful to be fulfilled by Thy divine wisdom and power.

Inspire us with steadfast devotion to continue to pray fervently and to labor faithfully that our disappointed and disheartened humanity may soon find the way of peace and men everywhere shall be mingled in an alchemy of brotherhood.

Humbly we offer our prayer in the name of Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1960

Matthew 25: 40: *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.*

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE, Who alone can change and control the intractable hearts of men and nations, grant us an insight that is clear and calm as we seek to advance toward a new day of blessedness for our troubled world.

We earnestly beseech Thee that in striving to win the minds of men to a way of life that is more magnanimous and unselfish in spirit we may awaken them to the lofty principles of the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount.

May there be a new beginning in our own hearts when those gracious words which came from the lips of the lowly Man of Galilee shall fill us with feelings of generosity and an eagerness to share our blessings with all who are living in misery and in want.

Hear us in the name of the Master who went about doing good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1960

Ephesians 6: 13: *Therefore take the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, in these beshadowed days, when we are groping our way in the darkness of conflict and confusion, may we have the wisdom to commit and trust ourselves completely and unreservedly to Thy divine leading.

Grant that we may be alive and alert to the eternal truth that the God of righteousness is our refuge and fortress and that Thy love will never let us go.

Show us how we may strengthen the bond of unity among all the citizens of our beloved country and may it be strong enough to enable us to stand fast against the forces of evil which are seeking to destroy the foundations of our Republic.

May our minds and hearts be aglow with the enthusiasm and courage of lofty ideals and principles and inspire us with a faith that fulfills itself in faithfulness and a love that manifests itself in helpfulness.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1960

Deuteronomy 16: 20: *That which is altogether just shalt thou follow.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, in the quiet of this moment of prayer, we are coming unto Thee with heartfelt praises for Thy goodness, and with earnest petitions that our lives may be radiant with Thy presence and serene with Thy peace.

Grant that the dark clouds and gray shadows of anxiety and fear, which the events and happenings of these days are casting over us, may be dispelled by the Sun of Righteousness.

We humbly beseech Thee to so move upon the minds and hearts of men everywhere that a saner and nobler spirit shall rule their thoughts, inspiring them to strive faithfully and unitedly for the triumph of reason and righteousness.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1960

Psalm 112: 6: *The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.*

O THOU GOD OF OUR FATHERS, who didst gird them with the armor of the Lord in their times of terror and tragedy, we are about to commemorate with gratitude and reverence one of the great days in the calendar of our national life.

We thank Thee for the courage and devotion of those men and women who gave themselves so sacrificially to safeguard our heritage of freedom and democracy.

May that day soon come when international claims and disputes shall never again be submitted to the dreadful arbitrament of war, with its terrible toll of bloodshed and suffering, but when men and nations shall have enough wisdom to submit them to arbitration and sincerity and honor enough to abide by the decisions.

Grant that the mind and heart of man may be tempered by some finer essence of the moral and spiritual virtues and may we eagerly avail ourselves of the resources and reserves of divine help as we labor for peace and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1960

Hebrews 10: 22: *Let us hold fast the confession of our faith, without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose bountiful providence is everywhere and continually supplying us with Thy grace and goodness, may we seek to bring our daily life into perfect tune with the beneficent spirit of our blessed Lord and in sympathetic touch with the needs and longings of humanity, in its weakness and weariness.

Deliver us in these turbulent and troublous times from all resentful and rebellious tempers of mind lest we become too indifferent to face life's challenging demands with faith and too discouraged to look with hope for the dawning of a better day.

May our moods of frustration and despondency be supplanted by a faith that is not merely a theory or a tradition but a dynamic reality, making us aware and responsive to Thy conquering love and sustaining us with courage as we aspire and struggle to build the kingdom of peace and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1960

Ephesians 4: 3: *Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in this moment of prayer, may we be blessed with an inner experience of peace and strength.

Grant that, as citizens of this God-fearing Nation, we may aspire to achieve a closer fellowship with one another in the life of the spirit.

Help us to cultivate mutual understanding and a respectful attitude toward others whose religious creed and convictions, by reason of tradition, teaching or choice, may differ from our own.

Grant that all who love God and their fellow men may join hearts and hands in a new covenant of love and loyalty to keep the light of religion aglow in these dark times and help stem the tides of crass materialism and blatant atheism.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1960

II Corinthians 13: 5: *Examine yourselves to see whether you are holding to your faith.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, as we seek to respond to the obligations and opportunities of our high vocation, may we be grateful for Thy many overtures of counsel and companionship.

Grant that, being drawn together by a common peril and a common ideal, we may be helped to maintain that continuity of faith and fortitude which will insure our national freedom and security.

We humbly pray that we may put forth a determined effort to build a finer world order and a nobler spiritual unity of all mankind.

May the welfare of humanity be the concern of all the nations and may we be partners in the great enterprise of enthroning the spirit of that lowly Nazarene who taught us to love Thee and our fellow men.

Hear us through the mediation of the Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1960

II Kings 17: 39: *The Lord your God shall ye fear; and He shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou knowest how greatly we need Thee in these tragic and terrifying days when the forces of evil are seeking to defame and destroy the fundamental laws and liberties of humanity.

We humbly acknowledge that our finite minds do not know what the future course of world events will be but inspire us to put our trust in the Lord without whose help all our hopes are doomed to defeat.

Grant that we may understand that there is nothing we need so urgently as a strong and growing faith in Thy divine sovereignty, enabling us to live hopefully, and placing at our disposal those resources that will make us victorious in defending our freedom and in protecting the helpless.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1960

Mark 1: 35: *And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

O THOU PRAYER-HEARING AND PRAYER-ANSWERING ETERNAL SPIRIT, may we daily keep inviolate this moment of worship and enter this Chamber reverently and with a pure heart seek to renew our strength and vision in the nourishing fellowship of God.

May our Capitol be a veritable citadel and watchtower of hope for the people of our beloved country and the world, who, in these great crises days of history, are alarmed by the advances that the forces of wickedness seem to be making.

Grant that the Members of this legislative body may be men and women of understanding and wisdom, giving a strong and clear-minded leadership, which stands ready and knows how to strike with the power of a God-directed patriotism, the wiles and treachery of our enemies.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1960

Psalm 29: 11: *The Lord will give strength and will bless His people with peace.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in these times of world crises, may we have for our consolation and confidence a clear vision of the dawning of a new and better day when the great ideals of righteousness and justice, of love and peace, shall be gloriously fulfilled.

May our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress be men and women of deep moral insight and lofty spiritual institutions, inspiring them to seek eagerly to know and do Thy will.

Grant that they may speak to our distressed and broken-hearted humanity with the accents of faith and fortitude and help create a more favorable atmosphere in which the nobler spirit of man shall grow and blossom into strength and beauty of character.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1960

St. John 1: 9: *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast created us in Thine own image and made us for Thyself, we pray that Thou wilt now evoke within us those desires which Thou dost delight to satisfy and remove from us everything that hinders our minds and hearts from following Thy leading.

Grant that our daily life may be animated and aglow with the spirit of our blessed Lord who walked our human way and revealed unto us the worth and dignity of human life and the supremacy of duty toward Thee and our fellow men.

May the record that we have of His words of grace and His works of mercy kindle our souls with a passion to be faithful in discharging the tasks and responsibilities of our high vocation to which we have given our plight.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1960

II Corinthians 4: 11: *That the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, with eager and earnest hearts we are invoking Thy blessing and dedicating ourselves anew unto Thee through the merits and mediations of our Lord and Saviour.

May the spirit of the lowly Man of Galilee, His love, His faith, His humility, His compassion be incarnated in us and become the sovereign and supreme reality in the mind and heart of humanity.

We humbly acknowledge that we so frequently fail to embody and express His spirit and do not make vivid and vital the beauty of His life which our character and conduct should reveal.

Grant that in these troublous and bewildered times we may manifest the influence that His spirit has upon us and have the courage to make greater trial of His way of life, trusting Thee as He did, loving our fellow men and seeking their welfare as He always did.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1960

Luke 6: 12: *He continued all night in prayer unto God.*

O THOU TRANSCENDENT AND IMMINENT GOD, who alone can satisfy our mortal needs and our immortal longings, grant that in the tragic unrest of our day, we may have a faith that finds its center and circumference in Thee.

Inspire us with a fortitude that can master and dispel all the somber moods of doubt and despair which are hovering over the minds and hearts of so many members of the human family.

May our vision of Thy divine will and righteous purposes be so clear and commanding that we shall feel constrained to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to bring them to fulfillment.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1960

Psalm 1: 2: *Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord.*

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, in the quiet of this moment of prayer, may we come to Thee with glad and grateful hearts as we call to memory Thy grace and goodness.

Give us a courageous and conquering faith in these perilous days when the way of life is dim and its meaning seems to be a bewildering enigma.

We penitently acknowledge that we so frequently yield to inertia and desire the delights of a strong faith without dedicating ourselves to its high demands or surrendering to its disciplines.

Show us how we may enlist the loyalty and service of the virile and educated young people of our generation who, with ambitions for high adventure and lofty enterprises, are scanning the skyline for a new portent of a better day when men shall live together in peace and good will.

Grant unto us, as we mourn the death of our colleague, the assurance that whatever was good and noble in his life, in our sight and Thine, shall abide forever. May the members of his bereaved family be blessed with the consolation of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1960

Luke 18: 8: *When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD who art always drawing us to Thyself and seeking to show us what life really means, when touched by the wonder and glory of Thy presence, may there be no reluctance in our response and obedience to Thy divine love.

Inspire us daily to manifest the strength and blessedness of our faith to all who are sorely troubled and wistfully searching for the right and satisfying answer to mankind's many problems with their tragic social, racial, and economic setting.

Grant that in a time when men and nations are being brought so near to one another, as neighbors, by the findings of science and invention, we may all be more docile ad determined to learn the fine art of living together in a neighborly and brotherly spirit.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1960

John 14: 21: *He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me.*

O THOU WHO ART ALWAYS READY TO ANSWER our most ambiguous and perplexing questions, we beseech Thee to make known unto us life's deeper meaning and enable our minds to see it in a new perspective.

Give us a greater appreciation of the inheritance of inspiration left to us by men and women of past generations who had a clear perception of the moral and spiritual values and who found their delight in obeying Thy commandments.

May our life be rich in the love that seeketh the welfare of others, the faith that never wavers and the courage which remains steadfast in times of temptation and adversity.

Grant that all mankind may lay hold of and learn those fundamental principles of truth and righteousness which are our final protection against the tide of materialism and the powers of darkness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1960

Luke 6: 46: *Why call ye Me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily feel the impulse to pray, may we be inspired with the will and the strength to make the adventure to become the kind of men and women which, in our noblest hours, we long to be and know we ought to be.

We beseech Thee to remove those impediments which hinder us in heeding Thy counsel and hold us back from walking in the way of duty that often seems to be the hard way of drudgery and darkness.

Give us a larger measure of that love which never spares itself in seeking to lift to the radiant levels of joy and peace all who are the victims of fear, troubled in spirit and haunted by bitter memories.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who never seeks to rule us by force but by the winsomeness of His eternal love. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1960

Romans 13: 12: *Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.*

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, as we again assemble for prayer, wilt Thou renew within us a sense of Thy nearness, touching our minds with a clearer insight, a wiser understanding, and a nobler humility.

Help us to keep our hearts sensitive to Thy leading for we are not sufficient to be our own guide and cannot carry on without Thy strength.

May we always put ourselves on the side of faith in Thy mercy and in the triumph of righteousness which we confess we are finding so difficult to do amid the miseries and the hard facts of life.

We earnestly beseech Thee to kindle within the soul of humanity a flame of lofty aspiration that will consume all the gross and cruel passions of selfishness and hatred.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1960

Psalm 118: 24: *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may we accept this new day as a beautiful gift from Thy hand and a glorious opportunity for heroic endeavor to serve Thee and our generation faithfully.

Grant that we may be wiser today because of the failures of yesterday and more trustful when we are assailed by fears which darken our way and dwarf our capacities.

We humbly acknowledge that we often allow ourselves to become cushioned in complacency and are frequently indifferent to life's tremendous obligations and responsibilities.

Teach us to discern Thy will more clearly, to walk circumspectly and to carry on with an intrepid spirit when the winds are contrary and the road is rough and beset by the most formidable obstacles. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1960

Ephesians 6: 10: *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for the great homing instinct of our soul which constrains us to seek Thee in prayer for Thou art the source of our strength and hope for each new day.

Grant that we may yield ourselves in faithful obedience and unflinching loyalty to Thy Holy will that we may be partakers of its power and be liberated from those temptations and tendencies which thwart and defile the sanctity of human life.

May we desire and choose decisively those highest values as manifested in the teachings of our blessed Lord and hold them with unwavering fidelity at any cost and to the very end of all our days.

Help us cling with ardent zeal to the faith that will make us victorious and may our character and conduct always coincide with our creed and what we profess to believe.

We offer our prayer through the merits and mediations of our Saviour Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1960

Acts 9: 6: *Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?*

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, may all our aspirations and longings during this day blend into one supreme endeavor to live up to the dictates and demands of Thy holy will.

We humbly confess our failure to confirm by our daily life that we are seriously striving to bring our minds and hearts under Thy wise and benificent sovereignty.

Grant that we may appreciate more fully that it is the very wonder and inspiration of our life that we have been called to be partners with Thee in the accomplishment of Thy will here upon earth as it is in heaven.

May Thy hand of high commission be laid upon all the Members of this legislative body and may they find their true vocation in doing Thy will in the spirit of loyal dedication and devotion.

Hear us in the name of Him who said, "I came not to do My own will but the will of Him that sent Me." Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1960

Psalm 13: 6: *I will sing unto the Lord, because He hath dealt bountifully with me.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, whose divine providence supplies all our needs, grant that in these strange and strenuous days we may appropriate by faith Thy revealing presence and sustaining power.

May the hearts of the citizens of our beloved country expand with pride as they see our leaders and chosen representatives maintaining their integrity in the face of the temptation to make expediency the standard and test of their action rather than truth and righteousness.

Give us courage and hope as we seek to bring about a closer fellowship and better understanding between all the nations. May we recognize our kinship and be conscious of how much we can do to minister to one another's welfare and happiness.

Together we penitently confess our sins and humbly beseech Thy pardoning mercy in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1960

Malachi 4: 2: *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings.*

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, as we bow in the quiet of this moment of prayer wilt Thou kindle within our hearts the spirit of adoration, of gratitude, of confession, and supplication.

Gird us with the armor of righteousness that we may overcome the forces of evil in the world and hold fast the blessings of freedom for ourselves and all future generations.

May our beloved country be a Nation of God-fearing and law-abiding citizens for Thou hast placed us in a moral and spiritual universe where no man and no nation can with impunity defy Thy laws.

Grant that with ever deepening insight and understanding we may find those ways and means which will bring concord among the people of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1960

Psalm 39: 7: *Now Lord, we hope in Thee.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, without whom we have no hope, but with whom we have nothing to fear, inspire us with wisdom and faith to order our minds and hearts in complete and confident obedience to Thy divine revelations.

Grant that men and women of good will may be endowed with genius to discover new skills which will counteract the forces of evil and conserve the blessings of the more abundant life.

May our Speaker and the Members of this legislative body, during the anguish of these present times, be richly blessed with good hope.

Give them a clear vision of that better day when nations shall no longer vie with one another for possessions and power, but for the ennobling of all life according to the pattern and principles of the Man of Galilee.

Hear us in His name and in His spirit. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1960

John 8: 12: *He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may the clarion and compelling call of these words of the Master silence our innumerable fears and give courage to our ceaseless longings for a new social order wherein dwelleth righteousness.

May we never allow ourselves to become calloused and complacent in these days when urgent demands are challenging us to minister to the miseries and needs of helpless humanity.

Gird us with perseverance and patience as we continue to pray and labor for a nobler generation when men shall no longer harm one another in their hatred or persecute one another in their ignorance and blindness.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1960

Amos 5:14: *Seek good, and the Lord shall be with you.*

O THOU EVER-GRACIOUS GOD, who art far beyond the reach of our finite minds and yet within the heart of the humble and lowly, bless and sanctify all our worthy plans and desires with which we have entered this Chamber.

Grant that in the stress and strain of life we may be kind and considerate toward one another, remembering that each is often engaged in a tremendous struggle and frequently walks a lonely way.

Give wisdom to our minds, strength to our wills, and peace to our hearts as we incline ourselves to hear and heed the accents of our Master's voice calling us to establish the spirit of reconciliation and good will among all men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1960

Matthew 6: 33: *Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.*

GOD OF ALL GRACE, may there be nothing in this day's work which shall be harmful to others and dishonorable to ourselves but may all that we say and do receive Thy benediction and redound to Thy glory.

Inspire us to pray continually and fervently for the coming of world peace when diplomacy and statesmanship shall open up new ways for nations to live together in harmony and in love.

May we apprehend Thy truth, and have the courage to pursue the ways of justice and brotherhood, giving them the place of preeminence in our endeavors to find the Christian solution to all the problems of our social order.

Hear us in the Master's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1960

Galatians 6: 2: *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

O THOU GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, we rejoice that daily Thou art supplying us with many blessings but we confess with shame that we are often so thoughtless and selfish in our appropriation and use of them.

May we strive to solve the problems of economic distress and social maladjustment on the levels of a hallowed respect for the dignity of man, created in Thy own image and destined for immortality.

Show us how we may help to remove from the minds of men those attitudes of bigotry and prejudice which engender strife and may they be supplanted by the virtues of forbearance and good will.

To Thy name we shall ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1960

I Thessalonians 3: 12: *The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men.*

ETERNAL GOD, in whose hands lie the destinies of all men, help us to feel our sacred unity as members of the human family and children of a common Father.

Make us alert and vigilant in finding ways of amity and concord for we penitently confess that our wills and desires so frequently clash in dissension and discord.

May the spirit of love and good will possess and control our hearts inspiring us to make every sacrifice that will bring blessedness to needy humanity and dispel the darkness which enshrouds the earth.

Hear our prayer through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1960

Psalm 41: 1: *Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of prayer, wilt Thou stir our hearts to respond more gladly and ardently to the exhortations and admonitions of Thy Holy Word.

Grant that by the kindness and charity of the thoughts and temper of our minds we may show forth the wonder and power of Thy love.

We penitently confess that we are often so eager to find gain and profit for ourselves with little concern for the welfare and happiness of others.

Help us to explore those avenues of blessedness which will alleviate the needs of all the destitute and poverty-stricken members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1960

Joshua 1: 5: *I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

O THOU WHO ART MAN'S COMPANION AND COUNSELOR, we beseech Thee to guide and sustain with Thy infinite and infallible wisdom the Members of this legislative body as they face difficult decisions.

Grant that they may serve Thee and our beloved country without reproach and continue to carry on with patience and perseverance those deliberations and councils which will bring about a better understanding among all the various classes in our human society.

May the citizens of our Republic be aroused to the necessity of safeguarding their liberties and give themselves in loyal and patriotic devotion to the principles and virtues which make for peace.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1960

Psalm 55: 22: *Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee.*

O THOU LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT, may we daily unburden ourselves humbly and reverently to Thy listening ear and understanding heart for Thou alone canst supply all our temporal needs and satisfy our eternal longings.

We penitently confess that we so frequently fail to see life in its true perspective and are tempted to enter upon the duties and responsibilities of a new day with fear and foreboding.

Grant that we may appropriate Thy overtures of friendship more courageously and avail ourselves more eagerly of those moral and spiritual resources which Thou hast placed at our disposal to sustain us.

Hear us in the name of our Master. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1960

Philippians 2: 5: *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that daily we may respond more eagerly to the Master's call and dedicate ourselves anew to every noble cause that will make life blessed and meaningful for all mankind.

Teach us to recognize, in men everywhere, the bonds of our common humanity and reveal the good in others which hitherto we have failed to see because of our blindness and ignorance.

Forgive us for being guilty of those attitudes of pride and superiority, of bigotry and prejudice, which stifle and destroy the spirit of brotherhood we should cultivate and cherish.

Show us how we may break down every barrier we are tempted to raise even in religion, whose concepts and creed men honestly hold by reason of training and tradition, or choice and conviction.

Inspire us to follow the more excellent way of charity and have within our hearts a new birth of the principles of our blessed Lord.

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

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